

High Country

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You gotta have Hart

Playing presidential politics in Colorado ski country

by Dan Whipple

I could have predicted that the Sierra Club's First International Assembly would have John Denver as its featured performer.

Denver, who noted that he was once described as the "Mickey Mouse of Rock," has written and performed such hits as "Rocky Mountain High" and "Starwood in Aspen," celebrating life in the clean air and good vibes of the Rockies. The conference was held in Snowmass Village, in western Colorado, one of those ski resorts that has pushed trendiness to new heights, about five miles from Denver's home in Aspen.

However, the presence of J.D. (as he's affectionately known in Snowmass) was in some ways inappropriate. For while the environmental content of his songs is high, the political content is low. And the theme of this first assembly was "The Politics of Conservation."

A number of presidential candidates came to the affair to dance with the Sierra Club. The politics of conservation has become big league politics indeed. Of the six announced Democratic presidential candidates, only one, Ohio Senator John Glenn, did not make any overtures at all to the assembled environmentalists. Three others — Colorado Senator Gary Hart, California Senator Alan Cranston and former Florida Governor Reubin Askew — were there in person. Front runner Walter Mondale sent former Idaho Governor and former U.S. Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus as his emissary and South Carolina Senator Ernest Hollings, who had been scheduled to appear, was forced to cancel at the last minute.

Snowmass Village is the sort of place in which only Californians and John Denver fans could attend a conference

on the environment and not feel hypocritical. It is a "new town" constructed in the late 1960s. The trees and mountains have been gouged out to provide space for ski lifts, golf courses, softball fields, swimming pools, convention facilities, equestrian centers and the rest of the perquisites of wealth. The buildings are all done in earth tones and barn wood with lots of the sharp corners and odd angles that pass for architecture in the West. The place is a classic example of development that digs out all the hills, cuts down all the trees, drains all the water and then sells subdivisions that tout the quality of their environment.

Snowmass Village is, in fact, the sort of place that President Ronald Reagan would like. Though invited to the gathering, he declined to attend. He didn't even respond to the invitation. It's probably just as well. There was vigorous hissing from the audience each time his name or that of Interior Secretary James Watt was mentioned.

However, Reagan's spiritual presence was the driving force of the meeting. If the gathering could be said to have had a unifying theme, it would have been, "Daffy Duck is preferable to four more years of Reagan." Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) said in his opening remarks to the 800 assembled Sierra Club members, "Four years of Reagan is more than enough for the environment. Eight years is unthinkable." The applause that greeted this statement indicated the assembled activists' concurrence with his view.

Udall offered another observation in his speech, to wit, "Everybody who's elected to the U.S. Senate is immediately considered a presidential candidate if he is not under indictment or detoxifi-

cation." All but one of the current Democratic candidates is a present or former U.S. senator. The lone governor in the race, Florida's Askew, is not given much of a chance by anyone.

This similarity of backgrounds, coupled with the candidates' similar stances on many issues, has them falling all over themselves trying to emphasize differences. Mondale sent Andrus to speak to the convention. The former interior secretary is a hero to nearly every environmentalist, the first real environmentally-oriented individual to occupy that cabinet position since Earth Day, 1970. His tenure looks particularly good now in contrast to Watt's.

Cranston arrived for his speech after taking a hike in the mountains. He changed into his suit and then took off his coat and tie after seeing the casual dress of most of the participants. He was wearing running shoes — Brooks shoes, made in America. Until recently, Cranston held the world record for the 100 yard dash in the over-55 age category.

Hart arrived in a subdued white-and-brown checked coat, brown pants, black cowboy boots and a GWH brass belt buckle. He left his coat on during his speech.

Fortunately, none of the candidates wore a cowboy hat. James Watt's predilection for western headgear may have given the practice a bad name.

In most policy matters, at least at this early stage of the campaign, the differences among candidates are more apparent than real. Mondale is cornering the traditional Democratic interest groups — organized labor, ethnics, minorities,

the poor. Glenn is more conservative than everybody else. Hollings is more Southern. Cranston is pre-empting the nuclear freeze/nuclear war/nuclear weapons issue. This either makes him a single-issue candidate or the one with the most foresight, depending upon your preference. And Gary Hart is the intellectual westerner, the thinking person's candidate.

Q. Senator Hart, how do you plan to overcome your reputation as a thinking, intelligent candidate whose ideas cannot be reduced into 30-second television spots?

A. (laughs) Well, I keep getting this question from reporters asking, 'Aren't you too cerebral?' which only gives me a laugh. The only response I can make is that we've tried it the other way and it hasn't worked so well.

Oh, I think, frankly, it's a serious question because I think the challenges of the '80s are complicated challenges. It doesn't mean they can't be solved — they can — but not by simple answers. And it's going to be particularly challenging running against the president, who does offer simple answers and there are an awful lot of people who want that.

Gary Hart, Colorado's senior senator and the Rocky Mountain West's own presidential candidate was born in 1937 in Ottawa, Kansas. He attended Yale Divinity School and earned his law degree from Yale Law School. He was the campaign

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WESTERN ROUNDUP



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Spillway breaking up

As unprecedented high releases continue from Glen Canyon Dam into the Colorado River, rushing water is wearing through the four-foot thick concrete linings in the dam's spillways.

Last week, when 120,000 cubic feet per second flowed into Lake Powell, Bureau of Reclamation officials were forced to release a record 92,000 cfs from the dam — more than two billion gallons an hour. The elevation of the lake, considered "full" at 3,700 feet above sea level, continued to rise about three inches a day. On Saturday, July 2, the high water mark was at 3,707.5 feet. The maximum capacity of the dam is 3,711 feet.

The spillways — concrete tunnels built into the porous Navajo sandstone to bring excess water around the dam — were originally the tunnels that diverted the Colorado during the dam's construction. When the spilling of excess water began in early June, dam officials started hearing "some strange noises" coming from the east spillway. The high velocity water was carving huge holes, known as cavitation, into the "elbow" of the tunnel's concrete lining.

"I would see occasional chunks (of concrete) coming out," said Tom Gamble, the dam's power plant operations manager.

On two separate occasions, Bureau engineers from the regional Denver office were flown out to investigate the problem and tell dam officials what to do. However, before consultants could be flown out a third time, parts of the lining had completely eroded into the Navajo sandstone, sending red water

down the spillway into the green Colorado River.

"We've essentially dug a plunge pool" into the sandstone, said Gamble, that will "essentially absorb the energy of the flowing water without continuing to grow." Gamble is convinced the sandstone erosion is moving vertically — not horizontally toward the dam itself.

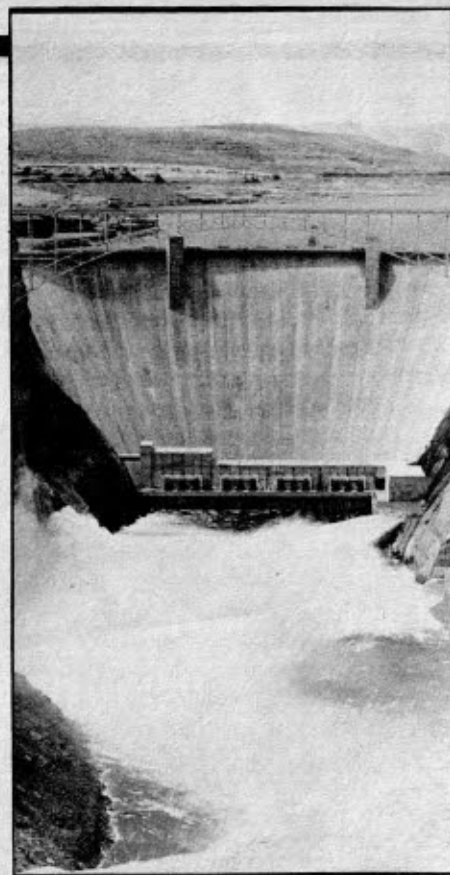
Officials continued to release 20,000 cfs from the damaged spillway last week end, saying they "had no choice" but to use both spillways until the lake inflow substantially decreases.

However, by Tuesday, two 8-foot-by-40-foot steel gates were to have been installed above the spillways to allow the lake level to rise to 3,708 feet. These metal gates will replace the four-foot high temporary plywood gates, known as "flashboards," which were erected when the high releases began.

The metal gates will allow the damaged east spillway to be shut down completely, enabling engineers to begin repair work, Gamble explained.

The cavitation of dam spillways is an anticipated problem, said Kathy Lovelless, a Bureau spokesperson. It has occurred in other dams, such as the Yellowtail Dam in Wyoming, and can be corrected by adding "air slots" to the top of the spillways to relieve the pressure of the rushing water.

One official at Glen Canyon Dam admitted the spillways contained "known design flaws" that could have been prevented by air slots. Slots were scheduled to be installed in October,



Patricia Guthrie

Glen Canyon Dam at high water 1983, the beginning of the fiscal year, Gamble said.

Meanwhile, water is beginning to carve holes through the lining of the opposite (right or west) spillway. "That other spillway is gradually suffering some damage, and will probably go the same way the left (east) spillway has gone," said Bud Rusho, Bureau spokesman for the Upper Colorado Basin.

But officials are quick to point out that the spillways are separate from the dam. As for the possibility of severe structural damage occurring to the dam itself, Gamble said, "Anyone who suggests that is fantasizing. It's one of the few things we can be sure of — there isn't anything wrong with that dam."

— Patricia Guthrie, Sandy Tolan

Dear friends,

Big changes are in the works for *HCN*. Effective September 2, the paper will be published by a new team, Ed and Betsy Marston, from a new location, Paonia, Colorado.

There, it's out — the short version, anyway. But where to begin on the longer tale that will explain how we got from here to there?

Let us go back in time to a point this spring when we first realized that all three of our senior staff members — director Jill Bamburg, managing editor Dan Whipple and production manager Kathy Bogan — would be leaving this fall. Jill will be heading for Stanford University's MBA program, Kathy is off to the University of Oregon to pursue studies in art and Japanese, and Dan will be off to Oregon in pursuit of Kathy. They plan to be married over Labor Day weekend.

So much for gossip. Once we realized that we'd be looking at a fairly complete staff turnover, we decided to take another look at our organizational structure as well. We thought that perhaps we could consolidate some staff functions and juggle our production arrangements to make the operation more efficient and, more to the point, less expensive. But we wanted to be sure to retain the paper's identity and quality. The key to that, we all agreed, was finding the right people to take it on.

By mid-June, when our High Country Foundation board met here in Lander, we had a handful of applicants for the managing editor's position and two very strong proposals to more or less run the whole show — both from locations other than Lander. After a marathon twelve-and-a-half-hour meeting, our board decided to accept the proposal from Ed and Betsy Marston and move the paper to Paonia, Colorado.

The Marstons are a husband-wife publishing team who have most

recently been producing the *Western Colorado Report*, a biweekly covering natural resources, water, recreation and industry on Colorado's Western Slope. They moved to Paonia in 1974 and founded a community newspaper there, the *North Fork Times*, which they ran for five years before making the plunge into regional journalism. Prior to moving West, Ed was a university professor in experimental physics, author of a physics text called *The Dynamic Environment*, and Betsy was an Emmy Award winning producer for New York's public television station, WNET. Now in their mid-40s, the Marstons have two children, Wendy, 13, and David, 11.

The Marstons will be the seventh publishing team to serve at the helm of *High Country News* and, like all their editorial predecessors, they can be expected to put their own unique stamp on our editorial product. They will, of course, continue to cover environmental and resource issues throughout our five-state region and they have pledged to maintain our firm commitment to balanced and objective reporting.

There will be changes, however.

Perhaps the difference in their approach is best understood in terms of their grounding in community journalism. To quote from their proposal to the board:

Our strategy would be to cover the environmental community in some of the ways a traditional weekly covers its town, using people to dramatize and explain issues. But the environmental community, of course, is not a typical community. It is a geographically dispersed community and can — without too much exaggeration — be compared to the knights errant of the Middle Ages — always riding off in search of interesting situations that concern the region. A newspaper that covers environmentalists is automatically led to the hottest issues.



An environmental community approach doesn't mean we see *HCN* as a cheerleader. Good weeklies go to war with their communities when the issue arises. We would prize and defend the journalistic integrity *HCN* has achieved. We use the 'community journalism' tag to emphasize that *HCN* serves an identifiable community of readers in a warm and personable way.

We must conclude these ramblings with a few thoughts about leaving Lander and Wyoming. The prospect frankly saddens us. Lander has been a warm and hospitable home for *High Country News* and our friends here have supported us, emotionally and financially, through many a troubled time. We are grateful for that, and it will be hard to say goodbye.

It will also be hard to say goodbye to Wyoming. For starters, we're Wyomocentric enough to believe that this state is at both the physical and (shudder) philosophical center of this region. We've enjoyed the fact that it's tough to be an environmental newspaper in Wyoming — it's sharpened our questions and made us more sensitive to other points of view. And, as Wyomingites, we've been proud to claim *High Country News* as "ours."

But in the larger sense, the paper has never been truly "of" or "for" or "about" Wyoming. It has been the entire region's paper — a region that we call home. And from that standpoint, it is appropriate that the paper move every once in a while, subtly taking in the changing landscape.

— the staff

Idaho BLM plans 14,000 acre land sale

They are listed as "disposal tracts." An average one is Tract 1-2(3). It consists of 40 acres of grazing land in Cassia County, Idaho, and it has an estimated value of \$4,000. It will be offered for sale by the Bureau of Land Management October 1. Probably. The direction and future of the asset management plan (AMP) is as ambiguous as its bureaucratically neutered name.

The Idaho BLM has just released a draft list of the lands it plans to offer for sale in fiscal year 1984, which begins October 1. Broken down by township and range and indicated on pages of maps are 401 tracts totaling 14,300 acres. These will be offered for sale unless the BLM decides to remove a particular tract because of public objections. The public has until August 15 to object. If any tracts are removed from sale, an equal amount of acreage will be added to the auction block from the "reserve pool." The reserve pool ensures that 14,300 acres will, indeed, be offered for sale in Idaho. In all, the Idaho BLM has identified 175,200 acres which could eventually be sold under the AMP.

According to BLM official Trudie Olson, this is how the 14,300 acre figure was arrived at: "They (Washington, D.C., office) said if we give you so many dollars, how much land can you sell, and we said 14,000."

But the national office said the Idaho BLM wanted too much money for selling too little land. The national office set a ceiling of \$35 an acre, which the state BLM offices could spend to cover the costs of selling the land, and Idaho came up with a new figure — it would sell 14,300 acres the first year at a cost of about \$30 an acre.

However, the national BLM office may not get the money it wants to sell the land. It asked Congress to appropriate \$18 million to cover the costs of the sale. On June 28, the House passed an appropriations bill which cut that request to \$7.5 million. In slashing the

AMP budget, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee wrote, "The Committee does not believe that it is necessary or desirable to proceed with a program of this magnitude with the haste sought by the Bureau." The appropriations bill now goes to the Senate.

If the Senate agrees to cut the BLM budget, the effect on the AMP is still uncertain. "It's possible if Congress cuts the budget by half we may cut our sales by half," said Olson. However, the current work on the AMP has been done without benefit of a special budget; the funds are simply siphoned from other BLM departments.

BLM officials are hesitant to predict what will happen next with the AMP — the entire program has been run at a rapid pace with little long-range planning. Said one BLM staffer, "They'll give you a memo or a phone call" for day-to-day management.

Rep. John Seiberling's (D-Ohio) House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks held oversight hearings on the AMP June 23 and 27. The hearings, according to a Senate staffer, demonstrated that cooperative land exchanges among the federal agencies and private interests have been halted by the AMP. Such interests as Burlington Northern and the American Forestry Association called for the termination of the President's Property Review Board, the executive arm which is overseeing the AMP.

The subcommittee also learned that the administration's emphasis on selling land has reached ludicrous proportions.

The General Services Administration is insisting that surplus federal lands within national parks be bought by the National Park Service or be sold to private interests, according to the Senate source. These holdings include Klamath Air Force Base land within Redwoods National Park and Mill Valley Air Force Base land within Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Out west, where the Property Review

Board has never ventured, the Idaho Conservation League has organized a coalition, with the abolition of the review board as one of its primary objectives. The Western Save Our Public Lands Coalition is an organization of 12 groups in eight states with the following goals:

- End the Property Review Board. ("We think they ought to be shut down, period," said ICL director Pat Ford. "There's no reason for them to be in existence.");

- Stop the AMP as it is now being run;

- Have public hearings on the AMP held in the West, where most of the public lands are found.

"We're just trying to give evidence to Congress and the governors of the widespread public opposition to the AMP in the West," Ford said. The coalition will try to align the western governors in formal opposition to the AMP. And the coalition will lobby to get the appropriations bill for the AMP cut. "A good short-term strategy," Ford noted.

The coalition is addressing the BLM because the Forest Service lacks the authority to sell its land, and only Congress can grant it that authority. The National Forest AMP is so sensitive that there is slim chance the administration will seek such authority soon.

Current members of the coalition are: Washington Wilderness Coalition, Oregon Natural Resources Council, Idaho Conservation League, Committee for Idaho's High Desert, Montana Wildlife Federation, Montana Wilderness Association, Montana Environmental Information Center, Wyoming Outdoor Council, Utah Wilderness Association, Wasatch Mountain Club, Colorado Open Space Council and the Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association.

Ford said the coalition will stick to its three goals, and by so doing hopes to attract more groups, including livestock and civic organizations.

— Glenn Oakley

HOTLINE



Clean Water Act reauthorization underway

The Clean Water Act reauthorization bill has passed the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee minus provisions to strengthen wetlands and dredge and fill requirements, and without provisions to control runoff from streets and farms. The bill also includes an amendment that extends the life of a discharge permit from five to 10 years for industries. A new amendment on controlling farm and street run-off will be added after hearings are held on the topic. The bill is expected to go before the full Senate later this month.

Grizzly attack cause unknown

The cause of a recent fatal attack on a camper in the Gallatin National Forest, north of Yellowstone National Park by a grizzly will probably never be known, according to officials. An autopsy on the male grizzly provided no clues that would explain the attack that killed William May of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Apparently May and his fellow camper, Ted Moore, also of Sturgeon Bay, had followed all precautions such as locking food in their car, cooking away from their tent, and washing dishes. The two men were asleep when the bear broke open their tent and dragged May away and killed him. May was the first person killed by a bear in the Gallatin National Forest since records began in 1900.

Leasing in wildlife refuges gets go-ahead

Oil and gas leasing will now be permitted in one-third of the national wildlife refuges. The Interior Department has issued regulations that allow oil and gas leasing in refuges acquired by purchase from state or private owners, unless they were specifically withdrawn from energy development. The regulations affect four million acres of acquired-land refuges in the lower 48 states. The new rules reverse the policy set 25 years ago prohibiting energy development in wildlife refuges. To date, almost 200 leases and lease applications are pending on 46 refuges. The Interior Department is also examining oil and gas leasing in the rest of the national wildlife refuge system.

Fort Union leasing uncertain

Plans for the Fort Union coal sale in Montana and North Dakota scheduled for this month are apparently undergoing some modification. *Coal Week* reported that the Interior Department has decided against leasing four coal tracts and parts of a fifth due to air quality problems and wildlife conflicts. This leaves only three tracts to be leased. However, one of the three is the Dunn Center tract, which has been the focus of controversy because it contains an archeological site, the Knife River Flint Quarry (*HCN*, 5/27/83). This tract has been redrawn to exclude portions that the Nokota Co. had wanted to lease, but it is not known if the Flint Quarry has been excluded. According to the Dakota Resource Council, the deleted parcels were ones in which little or no interest had been expressed.

Grizzlies are declining

The grizzly bear population in Yellowstone National Park is probably on the decline.

That's not news to *High Country News* readers, of course, but a series of well-publicized statements and rebuttals from grizzly experts have clouded the issue recently, leaving the public bemused and befuddled.

Last summer the Park Service's Roland Wauer said, "Unless some change occurs to reduce the grizzly's mortality rate soon, the probability of retaining this wildland species in Yellowstone is minimal."

That seemed clear enough, until a committee of scientists led by Richard Knight of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team came out with a statement this winter that seemed to question the bad news. "No significant trend" — up or down — was evident from the bear data gathered since 1974, the committee said.

State officials in Montana jumped

upon that statement and told news reporters that the Yellowstone bears were probably all right and were perhaps even increasing their numbers.

Now, however, a new message is about to emerge. According to Knight, the "no trend" statement was a mistake made by charting the wrong data. When the correct data are used, a significant decline in the bear's numbers is evident, he said. The committee is expected to reconvene to consider the new figures sometime this summer.

If this statistical roller coaster ride has *High Country News* readers reeling, they are not alone. "I am sick of this whole statistical exercise," said Knight, who leads the team of biologists researching the grizzlies in Yellowstone. "I don't really look at it as very meaningful."

Part of the problem is that Knight's team hasn't been in the field expressly to count bears; since 1974 it has been studying grizzly habits and habitat. This summer, for the first time, Knight is trying to develop a way to come up with precise population estimates.

It won't be easy. A few dozen, wary, reclusive creatures roaming some 8,000 square miles of forested high country provide challenges for even the most savvy census-takers. But by the end of the summer Knight and his crew should have the best one-year estimate made since the closure of the park dumps more than a decade ago, when the bears were more concentrated and easier to count.

Of course, coming up with an accurate population count will hardly insure



Grizzly cub

the survival of the Yellowstone grizzlies. It merely gives managers and the public some idea of the urgency of the problem. Of much greater importance to the bear, Knight said, is a public information program, "not about controversies over population figures, but about how to respect the grizzly bear, how to avoid confrontations."

With a minimum of about 30 adult female grizzlies and a total of fewer than 200 or so bears, "I don't feel we're in a panic situation," Knight said. "But now is the time to do something, to get started on the right path."

—Joan Nice

BARBS

The crisis in education strikes again. Someone wrote the following to syndicated columnist Abigail Van Buren: "I noticed that the U.S. Post Office has issued a 17-cent stamp with a picture of a woman on it. Her name is Carson. Who is she? Someone said she's Johnny Carson's mother. Is that true?" The woman so honored was Rachel Carson, author of the classic book *Silent Spring*.

HOTLINE

BLM issues new planning regulations

In an effort to eliminate "burden-some, outdated and unneeded provisions in the existing planning regulations," the Interior Department has announced new land-use guidelines for the Bureau of Land Management. Effective July 5, the new rules are dedicated to a multiple-use concept which Interior claims will "maximize resources value for the public through a rational, consistently applied set of regulations." However, the regulation change also eliminates the existing requirement that alternatives favoring resource protection be included in the planning process.

Indian rights upheld

The U.S. Supreme Court has unanimously upheld the right of Indians to regulate hunting and fishing on Indian reservations. The case resulted from a dispute between the Mescalero Apache Tribe and the New Mexico Game and Fish Department regarding jurisdiction over non-Indians who hunt or fish on the Apache Reservation near Ruidoso, New Mexico. The ruling applies to 26 reservations in New Mexico, and to reservations in Utah, Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming.

Parks receive emergency funds

The National Park Service will receive \$130 million under the 1983 Emergency Jobs Appropriation Act. The funds will be used for four NPS programs — the Historic Preservation Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program and the National Park System. The funds will be targeted for areas of high unemployment. The Park Service plan is to obligate the funds by October and have the full amount spent by September, 1984.

Flathead Basin study released

The final report of the Flathead River Basin Environmental Impact Study has been released. The results of the five-year, \$2.5 million study are contained in a 184-page summary. The EIS was an innovative attempt to record the current natural conditions of the Flathead Basin so that future changes can be monitored and the quality of the area preserved (HCN, 5/13/83). The study was directed by a 15-member volunteer citizen committee, which will be replaced by a permanent Flathead Basin Commission.

New Mexico nuke waste dump proceeds

Plans for a radioactive waste disposal plant near Carlsbad, New Mexico, have been given the go-ahead by the Department of Energy. Construction is scheduled to begin in September, and the first radioactive wastes would be stored at the plant in 1989. The plan involves storing low- and medium-level radioactive wastes in deep underground salt beds 26 miles east of Carlsbad. The Department of Energy is also proposing to do experiments on some high-level wastes at the plant. New Mexico Gov. Toney Anaya (D) said May 31 he may seek court action to stop construction. His concern is that these high-level wastes may remain stored at the plant. Other opponents of the plant, led by the Southwest Research and Information Center in Albuquerque, have filed a motion in U.S. District Court for a preliminary injunction to halt construction.

"Reasonable efforts" to guide new EPA sanctions policy

Reversing the policy of his predecessor, Anne Burford, EPA administrator William Ruckelshaus has told state and local officials that the agency will not seek the immediate application of sanctions under the Clean Air Act. Speaking at the annual convention of the Air Pollution Control Association, Ruckelshaus said that sanctions in the form of bans on new construction and the withholding of federal grant funds would not be applied against states and localities that have been acting in good faith and making "reasonable efforts" to achieve federal air quality standards.

The new policy differs sharply from Burford's February announcement that sanctions would be applied as early as this summer against more than 200 areas of the country identified as potentially out of compliance with one or more provisions of the federal law. Burford's action was criticized at the time as being motivated by a desire to garner support for congressional weakening of the Clean Air Act. Robert Golton of the National Wildlife Federation said that the new policy indicates an attitude on the part of Ruckelshaus that EPA can "live with the statute as written."

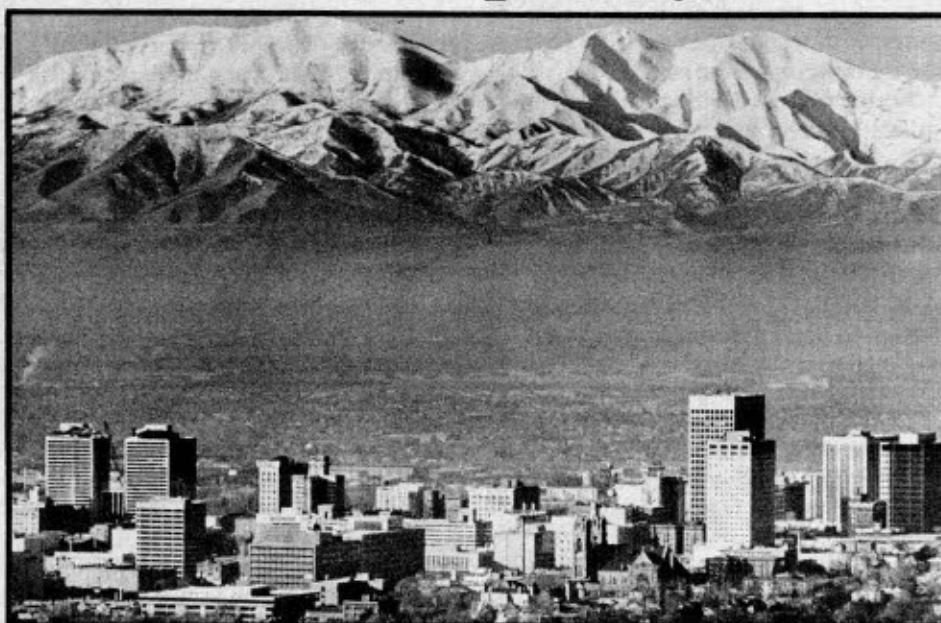
One of the most controversial aspects of the former EPA policy was Burford's decision to impose sanctions against states and localities that failed to meet the December 31, 1982 statutory deadline for compliance with federal air quality standards despite their adherence to cleanup plans that had been approved by EPA. Such an approach "seems to me to make little sense," Ruckelshaus said. "In many cases, EPA approved SIPs (State Implementation Plans) that were believed to be adequate to attain the standards. Well, we were wrong." He cautioned the group of state and local air pollution control officials, however, that new plans would be required and that "what may have been reasonable efforts prior to December 31, 1982, may no longer be reasonable now that the deadline has passed and the efforts have proved to be insufficient to achieve the (air quality) standards."

In line with his emphasis on "reasonable efforts," Ruckelshaus also declared that state or local agencies that have failed to submit plans or to comply with approved plans still face the possibility of construction bans and losses of federal grant money.

Details of the new policy are presently being worked out by EPA staff and Ruckelshaus said that state officials will be asked to review them. Gary Levene of EPA's Region Eight office, located in Denver, estimated that it would take about five months to finalize the policy. Accordingly, provisions of the old policy that could have initiated sanctions against Colorado, Utah and Montana within Region Eight as early as mid-August have been "scrapped," Levene said. In the meantime, EPA will continue negotiations with states that did not have approved cleanup plans. Whether or not EPA ultimately imposes sanctions on any state or locality will rest on resolving the question of whether "reasonable efforts" have been made in each case.

In Colorado, the threat of sanctions has existed since February when former regional administrator Steve Durham announced the agency's decision to disapprove Denver's plan because of its reliance on a voluntary ride-sharing program during the winter when carbon monoxide (CO) levels are especially high. (That plan was required in exchange for EPA's granting Denver an extension until 1987 to comply with the CO standards.)

Responding to Ruckelshaus' announcement, Colorado Air Quality Control Commission chairwoman



Salt Lake City

Carol Sullivan said the new policy means "we are no longer facing the kind of blackmail situation that we felt we were facing under Burford-Durham. Now," she added, "we can get on with the business of enforcing a plan that we think is very credible and will clean up Denver's air."

The decision also affects Montana and Utah within EPA's region eight. Four areas of Montana that were unable to demonstrate attainment with federal standards as of last February will now be able to make necessary changes or submit new plans without having to worry about sanctions becoming effective in August. In Utah, Salt Lake City received an extension until 1987 of the deadline to achieve both the CO and the ozone standards despite the fact that it has neither a 1982 nor even a 1979 SIP approved by EPA. A construction ban is already in effect in that city. If there is no approvable plan by December when the new sanctions policy is expected to be finalized, Salt Lake City will have

approximately six months to remedy the deficiency or face the withholding of federal funds, according to Levene.

Reaction to the policy among environmentalists was mixed. Robert Yuhnke of the Environmental Defense Fund said that "until we have a better reading as to how the policy is going to be applied, we are concerned that it could lay the foundation for not imposing sanctions where sanctions are deserved." However, Robert Golton of the National Wildlife Federation said that the new policy is what "we have been trying to get from Burford and Durham — a more sensible application of sanctions rather than some rigid policy that is not going to make any sense, lead to political backlash and cause Congress to take a meat axe to the Clean Air Act." Golton said that his organization would probably support the new policy so long as decisions are made in the open after suitable public review and input.

— Hal Winslow

Welles joins EPA team

The Environmental Protection Agency's William Ruckelshaus, continuing his efforts to install new leadership in the beleaguered agency, has appointed Colorado School of Mines Vice President John Welles to be administrator of EPA's Region Eight office located in Denver. Welles replaces Steve Durham, who resigned amidst considerable controversy in April.

Colorado government officials and environmentalists greeted the Welles appointment with what one called "cautious optimism." Carol Sullivan, chair of the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission (a group that clashed with Durham over his disapproval of the Denver clean air plan), said that she is "very pleased" with the Welles appointment. "I worked with him while I was in the legislature and think he's a very fair, reasonable person." Jody Berman of Rocky Mountain Greenpeace noted, however, that while the appointment should be an improvement, "We're still concerned about the policies of the Reagan administration and whether those will change."

Welles, 58, has been vice president of planning and public affairs at the Colorado School of Mines since 1974. He is credited with having helped to get ecological and environmental science added to the school's curriculum. Welles was director of the industrial economic division of the Denver Research Institute from 1956 until 1974.

Welles brings to his new job a reputation for being a good mediator. Referring to his chairmanship of Governor Lamm's Front Range Project, a two year

study of the impact of development on the 13-county area which includes Denver, Welles said, "I have had some experience in bringing hostile groups together." Larry Mehlhaft of the Colorado Open Space Council said, "It seems like everyone was pleased with his work on the Front Range Project from the standpoint of being fair to all sides, which is more than we can say for his predecessor (Durham)."

A major priority for Welles will be to address the bad feelings and loss of credibility the regional office experienced during the tenure of Steve Durham, who resigned shortly after the departure of Ann Burford as EPA administrator. He drew criticism for his actions on disapproving the Denver clean air plan, his positions on hazardous waste cleanup efforts and his office personnel policy.

Despite environmentalists' apparent willingness to give both Welles and Ruckelshaus a chance, however, they continue to express concern about the Reagan administration's overall position on environmental issues. Robert Jahnke of the Environmental Defense Fund believes that the true test of the new EPA leadership will lie in the array of important policy decisions that must be made over the next several months. That assessment is shared by Greenpeace's Berman, who says, "Time will definitely be the test. If Welles does what he says he is going to do and if Ruckelshaus does what he says he is going to do, and if the mandate comes from above, I think we should see some positive changes."

— Hal Winslow

Wilderness bill satisfies delegates only

The Wyoming Wilderness Bill was bounced around a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee hearing on June 28 as the Wyoming delegation, special interest groups, industry and private citizens debated the number of acres to be designated wilderness and the type of release language to be included in the bill.

The bill, which has already passed the Senate, would designate 635,000 additional acres of wilderness in Wyoming, bringing the total wilderness acreage in the state to about three million. It is supported by the three Wyoming delegates.

Rep. Dick Cheney (R-Wyo.) said at the hearing that since everyone in the state is mad at the delegation over the bill, it must have achieved a balance.

Cheney's assumption that everyone is unhappy with the bill certainly seemed true at the hearing. Oil and gas and timber interests said that too much acreage had been recommended for wilderness and that the release language was too soft, while conservationists complained that the number of acres was too little.

Both Wyoming senators Malcolm Wallop (R) and Al Simpson (R) said that the present bill is a good compromise of all interests and that it is necessary to get a Wyoming bill passed in order to avoid a third RARE (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) study.

One Wyoming state senator, Jack Pugh (D-Sweetwater County), testified that he opposed the bill. He said that during his campaign for state senator last year, voters made it clear that they strongly support "wilderness, wildlife, hunting and fishing." He said the current bill eliminates many areas from wilderness that are critical wildlife habitat, particularly the DuNoir, Commissary Ridge, and parts of the Gros Ventre, Little Granite Creek, Grayback and Salt River ranges. He said we need only look at the Overthrust Belt region to see evi-



Cloud Peak, Big Horn Mountains, proposed wilderness

dence that development can be disruptive and stressful for wildlife.

Pugh was also concerned about efforts to "harden" the release language that would be applied to all lands that are not designated wilderness. The bill's release language prohibits consideration of any new wilderness until the year 2000. "If hard release language is the only alternative, I'd rather struggle through another RARE III, though I don't want one," Pugh said.

It was Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio) chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks, who came to the defense of wilderness and softer release language. When Assistant Secretary of Agriculture John Crowell testified in support of the Wyoming bill, which contains less acreage than the Forest Service recommended for wilderness under RARE II, Seiberling said that he saw a double standard being developed by the current administration. He said that whenever a state wilderness bill proposes more wilderness than has been recommended by the Forest Service the administration always sticks to the recommended acreage and accepts no more, as was the case with the Florida wilderness bill. Seiberling said that now that a state delegation is recommending less acreage than the Forest Service did, the administration is going back on the agency's recommen-

dations and deciding that less acreage is better.

Representatives of the oil and gas industry testified that they could not support the bill because too much acreage would be "locked away in wilderness," and because permanent release language was not included. In response, Seiberling told the industry representatives that 85 percent of the Overthrust Belt region is open for development and only 15 percent is currently in or proposed for wilderness. He asked how long it would take to explore and determine oil and gas potential in the 85 percent. When the representatives answered, "a long time, maybe 20 to 30 years," Seiberling asked: "Well, don't you think you could work on that 85 percent for the next several years and if you don't find anything, then we'll consider letting you look in the other 15 percent."

Seiberling also said, "After all these years, I don't understand why the oil and gas industry believes it has a right to go any damn place they please."

Also testifying at the hearing were representatives from both state and national environmental groups, along with private citizens on both sides of the issue. More hearings are scheduled for July 21 in Washington.

— Carol Jones

HOTLINE

States to decide Indian water claims

A recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling gives states the right to decide Indian water claims. The decision applies to Indian claims in 10 states, including Montana, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, North and South Dakota, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Oklahoma and Alaska. This ruling overturns a lower court decision that barred state courts from adjudicating Indian water claims. A basic argument in the case was that all users on a given stream should have their rights settled together to provide a comprehensive approach to water rights adjudication and avoid further litigation. The Supreme Court said that the McCarran Amendment, in which the federal government waived its sovereign immunity in suits over state water rights, allows states full rights to settle all water disputes within their boundaries.

Utah wilderness proposal

The Utah congressional delegation has released its proposal for the Utah wilderness bill. The proposal recommends the addition of 612,345 acres to the national wilderness system. The Utah Wilderness Association has called the amount "inadequate," and was strongly critical of the bill's release language, which proposed that all acreage not included in the proposal be permanently released from further wilderness consideration. Other provisions include permitting water development for flood control purposes, use of seismic exploration, and allowing limited mineral leasing inside the areas past the December 31, 1983 deadline contained in the 1964 Wilderness Act. A meeting to gather public input on the proposal is scheduled for July 11 in Salt Lake City.

Milltown gets aid for arsenic

Milltown, Montana, residents may eventually get some relief from their water problems. The Environmental Protection Agency has approved a \$570,000 grant for studies to determine the source of the arsenic that is contaminating the western Montana town's water supply and to gauge the extent of the contamination. Some residents have been hauling water to their homes for more than a year and a half, since four wells were discovered in 1981 to be contaminated with high levels of arsenic (HCN 12/10/82). The source of the arsenic is unknown but believed to be a result of past mining activity. Milltown is one of four towns in Montana that were approved for money for toxic waste cleanup from the EPA's Superfund program.

Wyoming toad alive and well

A several week search of about 125 square miles in southeastern Wyoming has yielded the good news that the rare Wyoming toad still exists. The toad had not been seen since 1981. The only known range of the toad is an area from Laramie west to the foothills of the Snowy Range and from Rock River south to near the Colorado border. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department hired University of Wyoming students to search the area and their efforts were rewarded with the discovery of two immature yearlings, which indicates that the species is still reproducing. The Game and Fish Department noted that the Wyoming toad is the only toad in that area and asks that any person finding one inform the department or the University of Wyoming.

Merger moves Stillwater mining ahead

Platinum mining on Montana's Beartooth Plateau moved a step closer to reality in June when officials of Manville Products and Chevron's PGM Resources announced that their joint platinum exploration venture had merged with Anaconda Minerals, the clear leader in a race to open the country's first major platinum-palladium mine. (HCN, 6/24/83).

Anaconda Minerals, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Atlantic Richfield, has already conducted successful platinum exploration on the Beartooth Plateau, and was close to opening a new mine called the Stillwater Project along the upper reaches of Montana's Stillwater River north of Yellowstone National Park. Anaconda's platinum claims are near the abandoned Mouat mine, where the old Anaconda Copper Company once mined chromium under federally subsidized contracts during World War II.

But it was the Johns Manville Sales Corporation, not Anaconda, which found significant quantities of platinum-group metals in the stratified igneous deposits beneath the Beartooth Plateau. In 1967, J-M reported the discovery of a band of platinum-palladium minerals that stretched some 25 miles along a single mineralized zone. High-pressure underground water at J-M's West Fork adit (approach) blew away hopes of mining the rich ore found there, but the company opened new exploration adits to appraise the value of ores elsewhere in the complex.

In 1979, J-M and Chevron's PGM Resources created a joint venture to continue exploration of the platinum claims. The newest merger, announced

in June, ended months of speculation that Anaconda, Manville and Chevron would go ahead with plans to mine in the Beartooth Plateau.

Under the terms of the new joint venture, Chevron Resources Company, the hard rock mining subsidiary of Chevron USA would be the principal operator in the Stillwater Complex. Anaconda and J-M would contribute their claims, and Anaconda would throw in its mill site at the Hertzler Ranch near Nye.

It is still unclear what will happen to the nearly completed final environmental impact statement on the Anaconda Stillwater Project now that the new merger has occurred. The Manville-PGM partnership had also completed baseline environmental studies on its properties, but no EIS had been issued on its mining proposal.

According to Chevron's Owen Murphy, the new joint venture will be "sticking with the plan" that Anaconda has already developed for its claims at the Stillwater Project. Murphy said that the new venture will deepen Anaconda's exploration adit to continue testing the value of deposits there.

As to whether Chevron will go ahead with Anaconda's plans to mill ore at the edge of Nye, a tiny ranching community six miles from the proposed mine, Murphy said, "We don't even know if we're going to mine it yet, but in terms of developing that part of the Stillwater Complex, it's logical that we'd look at all of Anaconda's properties," including the Hertzler Ranch mill and tailings disposal sites.

Stillwater residents have expressed concern over the numerous trucks that will haul 1,000 tons of ore each day

from the mine to the Hertzler mill site. Under Anaconda's present plans, a tiny county road that links Nye with the mine area will see a truck every 12 minutes if the Anaconda adit turns into a full-scale platinum mine.

Residents have also expressed fear that a three-way expansion among the Stillwater mining companies would lead to the eventual expansion of the Hertzler mill and even more truck traffic to and from the mines.

Murphy cautioned against a hasty conclusion that the new joint venture means that mining is about to begin, and stressed that the three partners are still in the exploration and planning stages.

He laughed at a *Denver Post* report that the Stillwater Complex contained an estimated \$45 billion worth of platinum and palladium.

"I sure hope they're right," he said. "But that's why we're exploring — so we can find out how much the minerals are worth there."

The geologically unique Stillwater Complex is a group of layered igneous rocks about two billion years old. Geologists have long puzzled over the banded appearance of mineral zones in the complex — a form rarely found in igneous rocks — which has led to theories that mineral grains settled through the hot magma much like sand sifts through water to form sedimentary rocks. The new joint venture will try to crack the code of platinum mineralization in the precambrian complex, while conservationists keep an eye on impacts in nearby Yellowstone, the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and the beautiful Stillwater Valley.

— Don Snow

POACHING

A big Rocky Mountain business

by Carol Jones

Excited and full of anticipation, a man in Wyoming on his first elk hunt hears a large animal ambling near a stream up ahead. He catches a glimpse of the animal and fires. It runs a short distance before it drops and the hunter tracks it. He comes upon the strangest-looking elk he's ever seen — in fact, it's not an elk at all, but a moose. He leaves the animal — he doesn't want to be fined if a game warden comes along.

Once a year a group travels to Colorado to go trout fishing. They purchase out-of-state fishing licenses and go to it. However, as they catch their limits, they take the fish to their vehicles, put them on ice and hide them. They return home with 200-plus fish over the legal limit.

Through the right connection, a trophy hunter makes plans with an illegal guide to go after a prize full-curl Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. The "guide" can even show the "hunter" a picture of a herd and let him pick his ram. Then he is guided, out of season, to where a kill is almost guaranteed. He gets his trophy, the guide gets \$7,000 and the Rocky Mountains lose another prize bighorn to poaching.

Although there are no names, dates or exact locations to these stories, they are all true. Every U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special enforcement agent and every game warden in every state agency has similar stories to tell — some much more gruesome and cruel, others seemingly less severe. But it all adds up to a tremendous loss in wildlife resources.

Two recent poaching stories made national news during June. One involved the "bust" of seven people involved in illegal big game commercial hunting in Colorado and Montana. One of the seven was a Denver policeman, Dale Leonard, who set up expensive out-of-season hunts for willing customers. He is also the author of a book on hunting bighorn sheep.

The other story involved the killing of eagles and other protected birds in several states. Eighteen individuals have already been served with criminal indictments, while as many as 50 arrests are expected to be made as the investigation continues. Investigators discovered that over 200 bald eagles were taken over the past three years near the Karl E. Mundt National Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota — a refuge established specifically as a preserve for eagles. Most of the people indicted were American Indians. They are accused of selling feathers and whole birds for Indian artifacts or selling the artifacts already assembled.

In both cases, investigations are continuing and enforcement officials from the federal government and the states indicate that more arrests can be expected "soon."

Poaching, from the small-scale to big-time commercialization, is rampant — not just in the Rockies, but everywhere. In fact, said David Croonquist, assistant chief of law enforcement with the Colorado Div-



Yellowstone National Park Ranger Tom Hobbs inspects the fly-blown carcass of a bull elk slaughtered in the park. Apparently the poachers had been frightened away before removing the remaining antler, presumably to be sold in the Orient as an aphrodisiac.

"Poaching is done for money, it's done for food, it's done for thrills, it's done for the macho image and it's done for the hell of it."

—USFSW agent Terry Grosz

ision of Wildlife, a five-state study determined that "district (enforcement) officers, given the benefit of the doubt, are aware of less than two percent per year of illegal kills." And, only about two of every 100 poaching incidents are ever reported, according to the study.

According to Croonquist, in 1982, tickets were issued in Colorado for the illegal killing of three mountain lions, four black bears, 86 elk, one bighorn sheep, 23 antelope, 188 deer and one moose. Two hundred and nineteen tickets were given for illegal possession of fish. If those are, in fact, only two percent of the illegal kills in that one state, the total numbers could be mind-boggling.

The numbers are even more substantial when you add nongame and protected wildlife. Grizzlies, eagle, hawks, other protected migratory birds, protected fish and others are also taken. Black markets in this country and abroad pay high prices for small parts of animals, as well as whole carcasses. "Including both exports and imports, commercialization of wildlife parts and products in the United States exceeds \$500 million per year," said Terry Grosz, enforcement specialist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Region Six. Region Six includes Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas.

The accessible black markets and

high profits that the illegal commercial operators enjoy are well worth the risks. Grosz explained that grizzly paws can bring the poacher \$90 apiece; claws, \$250 to \$300 apiece; and the gall bladder, which is used as an aphrodisiac in Asian countries, goes for \$300 to \$400. When the gall bladders reach the Orient they can cost as much as \$3,000 to \$4,000. The entire hide of a grizzly can bring the poacher from \$5,000 to \$8,000.

Another highly profitable commercial market exists for antlers of both elk and deer. Used extensively in Asian countries for a variety of purposes, again including aphrodisiacs, antlers bring as much as \$6.50 a pound, with an average set of elk antlers weighing around 22 to 26 pounds. Grosz said antlers brought much more a few years ago, but the market is still profitable.

It must be profitable, because officials believe that last year poachers chased a group of winter-weakened elk in Yellowstone National Park until they dropped from exhaustion. The poachers then cut off the antlers and left the elk to bleed to death.

The profits are also high for guides who take willing customers out to find trophy-sized big game. Grosz said that an illegal bighorn sheep hunt can cost the client from \$5,000 to \$7,000, with some hunts known to cost as much as \$20,000. The price increases as the

ram's curl increases. Once the curl exceeds 40 inches, the price can go up \$1,000 per inch, Grosz said.

An illegal elk hunt can cost from \$3,500 to \$5,500, with extra large racks bringing the guide \$7,000. Most mountain goat hunts cost about \$5,000, Grosz said, with the price going up in accordance with the size of the horns. Trophy-sized deer can cost the hunter from \$2,500 to \$3,800, with some known to cost as much as \$7,000.

The high profits make the poaching game lucrative, and the risks associated with it are not that great. There are not enough federal or state wildlife enforcers to begin to cover all areas where poaching could occur. "Poachers know they have us," Grosz said. "Law enforcement never has enough." In Grosz's eight-state region there are only 18 undercover federal agents in the field.

The identities of Grosz's agents are protected about as well as those of Federal Bureau of Investigation or Central Intelligence Agency undercover agents. Their identities must be guarded because they become customers of illegal guides, or act as buyers for wildlife parts, or become partners with poachers in order to collect evidence. Grosz boasts of his agents' qualifications: All have one or two college degrees, many have experience with the FBI or CIA and all go through one and one-half years of training before becoming a wildlife special agent.

"We have a good stock of officers," Grosz said. "The hours are long, the pay isn't that great and odds stack up against you. But game wardens are survivalists. They work by themselves and they don't get trapped. And even though the chances of getting injured or killed are 27 percent higher than a regular cop, and everyone they encounter is armed, fatalities aren't high."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service enters the poaching scene when the Lacey Act is violated. Passed in 1900, the act prohibits the commercial transport across state lines of illegally-taken game valued at \$350 or more. This law allows the U.S. agents to aid state agencies, which can't cross state lines, when an illegal hunt takes place in one state and the animal is transported to another state with the client. Violating the Lacey Act is a felony that carries a maximum fine of \$20,000 and/or five years imprisonment.

In order to gain the evidence needed for a bust or "take down," as wildlife officials call it, an agent must enter the illegal "game" of poaching.

In fact, they pay to go on illegal hunts and in some cases actually have to shoot an animal to prove themselves. They will also buy parts of animals, such as gall bladders or antlers, to collect evidence. Then the agents might turn around and sell the parts to other "middle-men" — buyers who will eventually ship them to foreign and domestic markets.

Grosz pointed out that such operations cost the agency a good deal of money. "It is an expensive way to do things, but the only way," he said. "This



Dick Randall

Hunted by helicopter, these coyote and bobcat carcasses were stripped of their fur and dumped on a back road in Colorado.

year's budget of \$1 million was down by \$200,000 or \$300,000 from previous years. Some of the money is earmarked especially for buys. We do a lot of scrounging. We use every legal trick and we learn short cuts."

One agent who is still involved in the continuing investigation that recently revealed illegal hunting guide services in Colorado and Montana, explained how easy it is to become a customer. "Every agent has their own informants," he said. "It may come from a concerned individual or from someone who has been on the inside of the poaching operation themselves, but who wants revenge on their friends for some reason. Sometimes the information comes from ex-girlfriends or ex-wives."

"Sometimes we have guys in the field who will hunt with legal guides and develop a reputation of being a big game-trophy hunter," he continued. "The illegal guide may contact him. But many times the agent makes the contact himself."

The agent said that although the illegal guide will "check the customer out" and sometimes accuse him of being a game warden, it really doesn't take long to develop trust. "The risk isn't that great (to the poacher)," he said, "and the amount of money involved is comparable to the illegal drug trade. It's very profitable."

In the recent big game bust in Colorado, Jack Grieb, director of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, pointed to confiscated illegally-taken game at a press conference on June 10, and said, "If our hunters wonder where all the big game trophies have gone, here they are." Although over 200 heads and hides of sheep, elk, bear, mountain goats, mountain lions and others were collected by agents, wildlife officials believe the haul represented only a fraction of what this particular ring had harvested.

Sam Marler, public information officer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Denver, said that this particu-

lar investigation took 18 months and that others connected with the ring will probably be arrested soon. Marler said that the seven indicted in Colorado seemed "organized in their relationships" and were probably operating together. He said the publicity of the bust has been a catalyst in getting concerned individuals to call with tips on possible poaching operations.

In the other recent bust involving eagles and other protected birds, Marler said 60 to 80 state and federal officers were involved. The investigation has been two years in the making and is also continuing. Marler said the illegal kills involved not only eagles, but many types of hawks, snowy and great horned owls, aningas, road runners, scissor-tailed flycatchers, magpies, Canada geese, caracara, seagulls, great blue herons, red shafted flickers and mourning doves. The feathers were used in ornaments — mostly in the form of American Indian artifacts.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this case is unique because of the number of whole bird carcasses that were offered for sale. The agency reported that "during the investigation agents were sold 24 freshly killed bald and two golden eagle carcasses, along with parts from a mix of 25 bald and golden eagles and hundreds of items made from other federally protected birds."

Fish and Wildlife Service officials said, in this case, the carcass of a bald eagle sold for between \$500 and \$1,000, while an Indian war bonnet could go for \$5,000. A single eagle tail feather could bring \$25 to \$35. Fans made from the long tail feathers of Oklahoma's state bird, the scissor-tailed flycatcher, went for \$700. Forty-five birds would have to be killed to make one such fan.

Most of the persons arrested in the bust were American Indians, Marler said. He explained that Indians may legally possess eagle feathers for ceremonial purposes. However, the feathers must be obtained from a federal repository located in Idaho. The Indians can-

not legally take an eagle for this purpose. But, Marler said, those arrested were selling feathers and artifacts that they obtained by killing the birds.

Also important to the ongoing battle against poachers are the state agencies, which operate only within their borders but often work closely with federal agents. The number of state game wardens or conservation officers varies from state to state and the percentage of their law enforcement time is limited because they have to attend to other responsibilities.

In Montana there are 65 game wardens who spend about 40 percent of their time on law enforcement. Bill McKiernan, assistant administrator of law enforcement with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, said that the law enforcement time is made up mostly in the fall during big game hunting season. He said his department is trying to set up an undercover operation, but so far the idea is only in the planning stages. So for now, like all other states in the region, Montana depends heavily on the feds for assistance in breaking up large-scale illegal commercial operations.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife has 113 district wildlife managers who spend about 20 to 25 percent of their time on law enforcement. "It would be nice to have more field officers. It would be nice to spend more time on law enforcement," said Croonquist. "But because of the way it is set up, the district manager is responsible for everything. He or she is the Division of Wildlife for that district." The districts range from 300 to 3,000 square miles, Croonquist said.

Croonquist said that the division is hoping the Colorado legislature will agree to raise poaching fines in the near future. Currently, the illegal possession of a deer is a misdemeanor and carries a \$200 fine. Other big game fines run as high as \$1,000. Possession of fish without a license costs the poacher \$25 for the first fish and \$10 a fish for each

thereafter. Possession of illegally taken small game carries a fine of \$25. "To many (poachers), a \$200 fine is just a business expense," said Croonquist.

In Idaho there are 81 field conservation officers who spend approximately 60 percent of their time on enforcement duties. Dale Baird, chief of the Bureau of Enforcement for the Idaho Fish and Game Department, said he feels his department is in "pretty good shape," because the staff has increased by almost 14 percent in the last three years. He feels Idaho is doing better than most states.

In Utah there are 57 conservation district officers who spend over half their time on law enforcement. But there are also 11 to 12 specialists who work exclusively in law enforcement and specialize in investigative work. But despite the specialists, Bruce Johnson, enforcement specialist with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, said the division still must call in the federal Fish and Wildlife Service for help in breaking up commercial operations. "Those take a special type of operation and require lots of money," Johnson said. "In comparison to what we need to do, our numbers and funding are totally inadequate. We need more manpower and special equipment."

Johnson told the story of one highly publicized poaching incident that took place in Utah in January of this year. Two Asian refugees living in Utah chased a moose cow and calf in deep snow near the Salt Lake City area. Coming across two teenage boys, the refugees asked for a gun to kill the moose. The boys refused, saying it was against the law to kill the moose. The refugees continued to chase the cow until it dropped from exhaustion and then bludgeoned it to death with a car jack.

Wyoming's Game and Fish Department has 48 game wardens who spend about 40 percent of their time on law enforcement. To help on special cases

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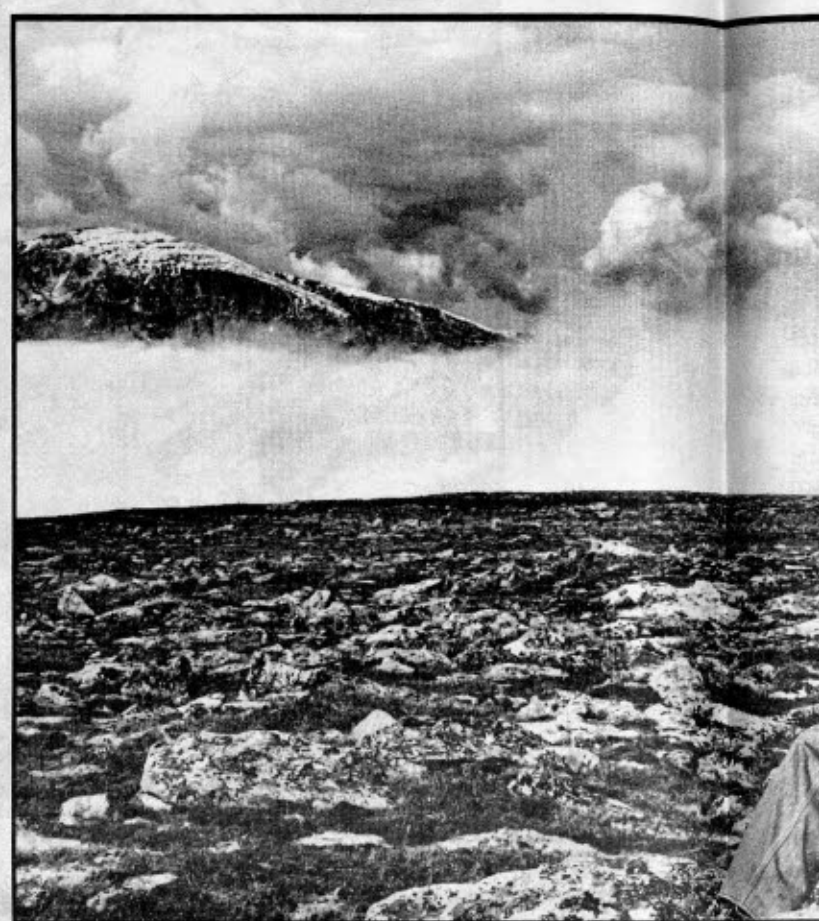
Rollins Pass Trestle, Colorado

Inside a clo

Photography and text by Kent Stanton



Stones Peak, Rocky Mountain National Park



Stones Peak,



Hidden Valley, Rocky Mountain National Park

Sometimes they surround you. Disappear until you too are descending around you comes a thin mist being inside a cloud.

Whether they come with them or not, they can reveal a before had been.

In Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park, conditions come most often in the form of mist wherever it happens soon forgotten.



cloud

Stanton

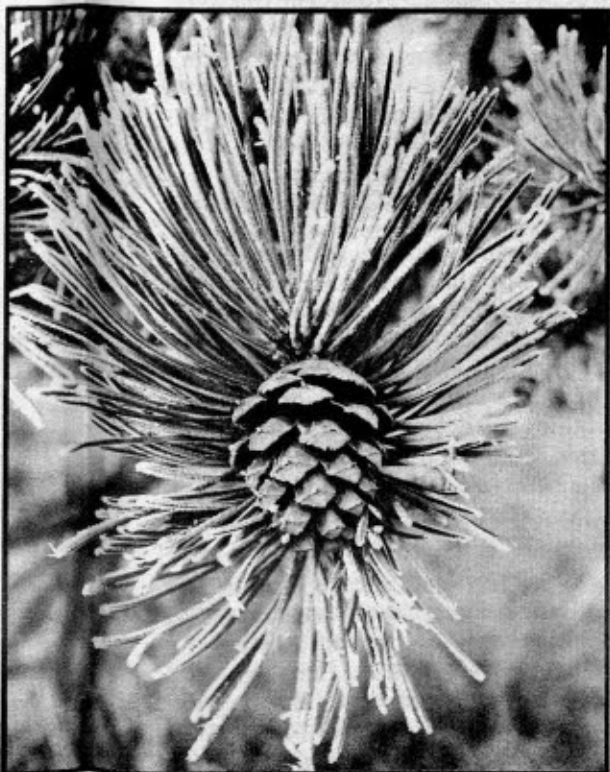


Stones Peak, Rocky Mountain National Park

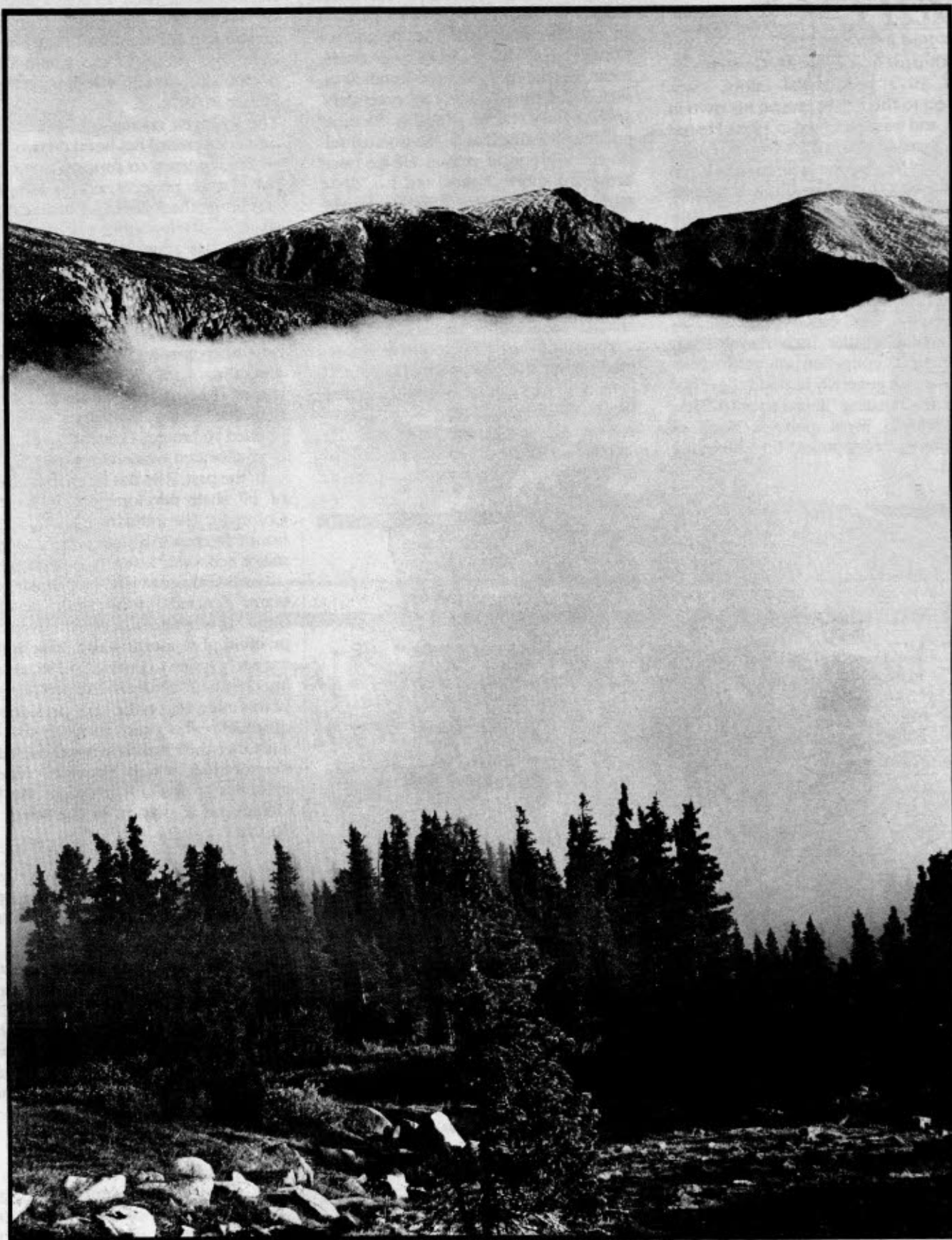
Sometimes they move slowly up the valleys and surround you. Distant features disappear one at a time until you too are engulfed. Other times the clouds descend around you or you hike into them. First comes a thin mist and then the cold dampness of being inside a cloud.

Whether they are moving up or down, a silence comes with them. Visibility can drop from miles to feet in minutes, but the reverse also is true. Departing mists can reveal a brilliantly lit landscape where before had been only white.

In Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park, these conditions come and go at any time of the day, but most often in the early morning. Whenever or wherever it happens, time spent in the clouds is not soon forgotten.



l Park



The Mummy Range, Rocky Mountain National Park



Trail Ridge Road, Rocky Mountain National Park

Hart

(continued from page 1)

coordinator for George McGovern's ill-fated 1972 presidential effort, was elected to the U.S. Senate on his own in 1974 and was re-elected in 1980. He has been married to the same woman for 25 years and has had the same two children for almost as long. Now he wants to be president.

Lots of good things have been said about Hart and most of them are printed in his campaign materials. He has been adopted by *The Washington Monthly*, a Washington, D.C.-based magazine, as the darling of the "neo-liberals," an amorphous collection of politicians who can be generally lumped together under the heading "liberal social policy, conservative fiscal policy." Sort of supply-side economics for bleeding hearts.

Hart generally disdains labels like the uneuphonious "neo-liberal." However, he does not seem averse to being called an environmentalist. The League of Conservation Voters, in its draft assessment of the presidential candidates, said, "Of all the presidential contenders, Senator Gary Hart is probably the most publicly identified as an environmentalist, and with good reason. He has been active on more issues and has done more to influence environmental legislation than any of the others... Indeed, with the exception of some water projects, Hart's efforts are nearly always aimed at improving environmental legislation. Above all, he never misses a chance to publicize his concern."

The list of Hart's environmental interests is long. He has strengthened and defended the Clean Air Act. He has fought the Reagan Environmental Protection Agency budget cuts and the "regulatory reform" proposals. One of his first priorities on entering the Senate

was to provide funds and tax breaks for installation of solar energy equipment on homes. He has a key committee assignment as a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, a position he sought when entering the Senate in 1974.

The strongest criticism of Hart's environmental record has been on two fronts — his tendency to support some pork barrel water projects and his compromises on synthetic fuel — particularly oil shale — development.

Hart has supported two Colorado water projects that are boondoggles of the worst kind — the Narrows Project in eastern Colorado and the Animas-LaPlata in southwestern Colorado. Both have been heavily criticized by environmentalists. Hart has supported and continues to support funding of the projects, saying that the storage is needed to protect Colorado's rights on over-allocated western rivers.

In the past, Hart has been a supporter of oil shale development in western Colorado. The industry is a major economic interest in a state where another major economic interest — agriculture — could be devastated by the land and water demands of oil shale development. This has put Hart in the awkward position of supporting the shale industry while trying to restrict oil shale leasing on public lands. On the positive side of this issue, Hart is the only presidential candidate who has moved to deauthorize the \$20 billion Synthetic Fuels Corporation, which provides federal subsidies to synfuels projects. He has introduced legislation in the Senate to do that.

Q. Senator Cranston, is it your goal to drive Senator Hart out of the campaign in the early pre-primary straw votes?

A. My goal is to be the nominee of the Democratic party. Some of my people may have said that and my campaign manager (Sergio Bendixen) said that was the goal in Wisconsin. But that was not my personal goal. My personal goal was to win that primary if I could, and I did.

Although presidential election campaigns are very drawn out these days, it still seems a little early to be talking about winning primaries, as Cranston did twice at the Sierra Club shindig. It was, of course, a slip of the tongue. Cranston was referring to a straw preference vote taken at a convention of Democrats in Wisconsin. In that vote, Cranston' outpointed both Hart and acknowledged front runner Walter Mondale.

His feat was achieved by some clever organizing and ballyhooed by media hype that went far beyond the event's actual significance. Members of the Hart campaign, however, said they were quite satisfied with their third place showing, and considered it a strengthening of their effort, not a weakening.

Cranston's apparent strategy is to run hard in these straw polls and try to create the impression of advancing popularity to overtake Mondale. If the Wisconsin experience is an omen, it may work.

For his part, Hart is organizing in every state, trying to build on volunteer help and making a virtue out of not having very much money. According to a recent Associated Press story, the Hart campaign has raised about \$800,000 so far. Mondale has \$2.4 million and Glenn has \$1.2 million. Further complicating his fundraising problems is a "moral and ethical" decision not to accept funds from special interests and political action committees.

Hart acknowledges that fundraising is difficult, but argues that by relying on volunteer organizations in each state, the need for funds won't be as great. Hart staffers are reluctant to say which states they are emphasizing in the early going, but it seems clear that most of the

effort is aimed at Iowa, one of the early primaries.

This grassroots strategy served Hart well in the McGovern campaign in 1972, when that candidate came from far behind to win the Democratic nomination, only to be clobbered in the general election by Richard Nixon. Hart's campaign staff says that the candidate made a plan for his road to the nomination three years ago when he first considered running and that "he is right where he wants to be along that road."

Apart from the good will that is usually generated by attendance at conventions like this one, Hart, more than the other candidates, may have gained some tangible results from his appearance in Snowmass. The Sierra Club board has announced that it is not going to endorse any Democrat in the primary, waiting until the general election to pick a candidate. However, it is perhaps the longest of all possible shots that the club would not endorse the Democratic candidate. And Cranston quipped, "If the Sierra Club endorses Reagan, I'll resign — from the Sierra Club."

However, since Hart's campaign is trying to run on volunteer power, this convention had a wealth of potential volunteers. The Sierra Club chapter leaders and activists in attendance are go-getters of the first water. When the moderator announced that he needed some chairs moved from one room to another, I grabbed a chair, figuring I'd move one, come back and get another one. The Sierra Club conferees grabbed armfuls of chairs and raced into the next room, completing the task in Olympic class time.

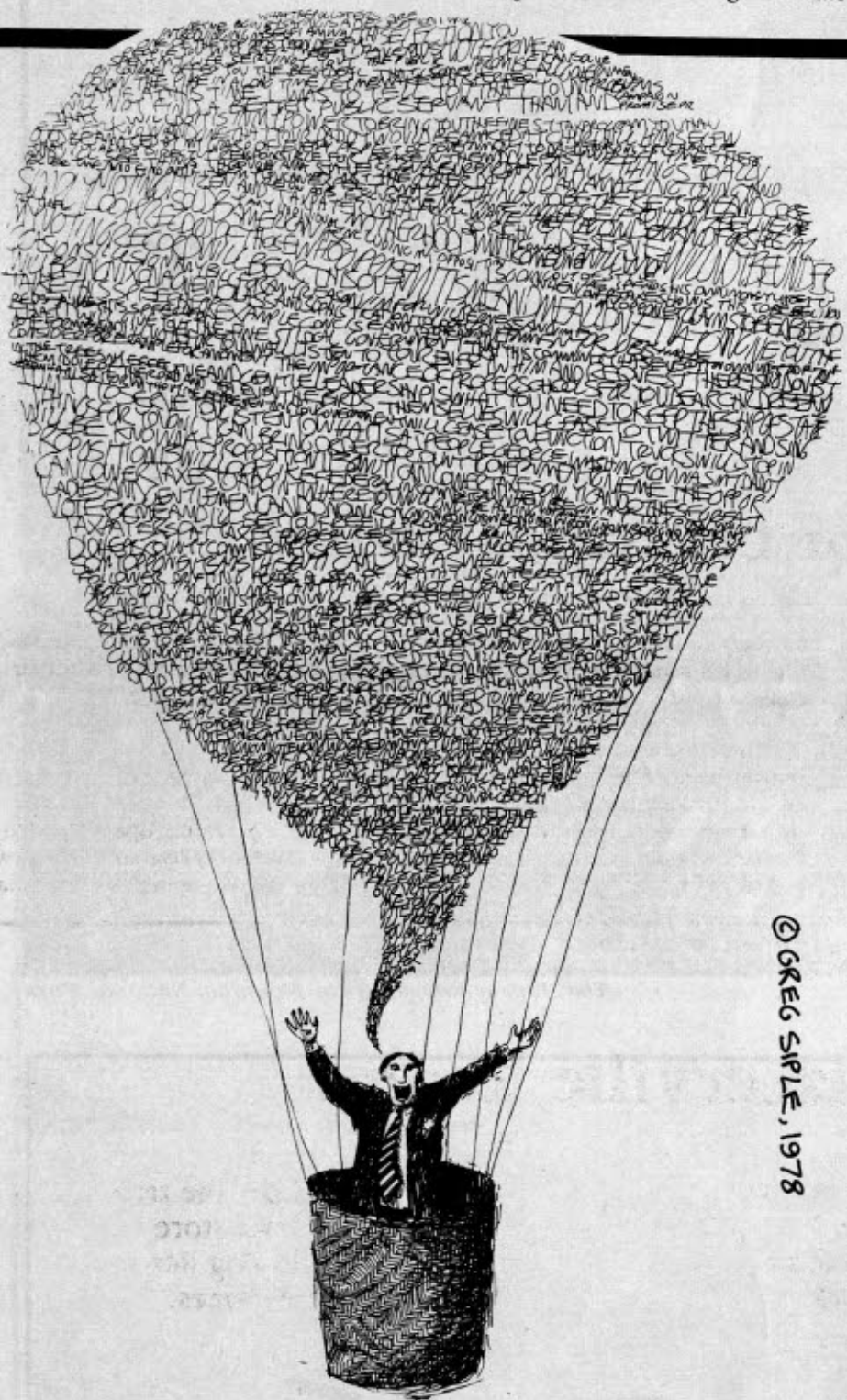
It has always been my complaint that, when I go to an industry convention, the schedule consists of a couple of business sessions in the morning, a speech at lunch and golf and tennis in the afternoon. At the environmental gatherings, the working day starts with meetings at breakfast, continues with meetings all day long, has a working lunch, a working dinner and more sessions after dinner. The Sierra Club assembly offered that type of schedule in spades. If Hart can harness some of that volunteer dedication — and he apparently was well-received and recruited a substantial number of volunteers — his visit may have been well worth the effort.

Q. Senator Hart, I'd like to ask you to clarify your position on the nuclear freeze. Senator Cranston said yesterday that he believed a nuclear freeze could be negotiated with the Soviet Union within six months after he takes office. Could you comment on that?

A. With all due respect to my colleague and competitor, I think it's very dangerous to promise the American people that you can negotiate any arms control agreement in a specified period of time. It suggests to people that there are quick fixes to a very complicated problem or series of problems — complicated even before this president took office and now compounded by his policies.

If anyone doubts that the arms race is not the environmental issue of the 1980s, this conference should have dispelled that idea. After a few obligatory opening digs at Interior Secretary Watt, Cranston spoke of virtually nothing else. "Because I speak of the arms race," he said, "the political pundits have called me a single-issue candidate. That means that they don't understand the issue."

All of the candidates indicated they will concentrate on the arms race as a primary issue — along with jobs and the economy — in the 1984 campaign. And all were well-received by the convention when they did. The Sierra Club greeted Cranston heartily. Andrus emphasized that Mondale would re-submit the SALT II arms limitation treaty for approval by the U.S. Senate and would renew the anti-ballistic missile



Rumor and humor from the political world

Cecil Andrus denied that he was going to run against Sen. James McClure (R-Idaho). "I'm going to stay right home in Boise."

When Andrus was installed as governor of Idaho in 1971, after running as strong pro-environmental candidate, he was given a 21-gun salute as is customary in that state. The howitzers boomed away and the entire crowd fell silent in the deafening roar. "When the firing stopped," Andrus said, "there was a long moment of silence, except for one fellow, whose voice was clearly audible in the crowd. He said, 'Damn, they missed him.'"

During Watt's confirmation hearing, Gary Hart asked him what his favorite movie was. "His answer should have given a clue," said Hart. "He told me his favorite movie was *To Kill a Mockingbird*."

All of the presidential contenders said that there is a noticeable distancing of Republican senators from the policies of Interior Secretary Watt as the election approaches.

Senator Hart said, "I've given considerable thought to who will be my vice presidential candidate, but I'm not prepared to announce her name."

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treaty. Hart supported the freeze, arms reductions and proposed to unilaterally halt production of the MX missile and the B-1 bomber.

It is indicative of the strength of the arms issue that Cranston, who is most strongly identified with that issue, was the most warmly received candidate. He was interrupted by applause 32 times in his speech, as one chagrined Hart staffer pointed out. Sierra Club executive secretary Michael McCloskey told the *Rocky Mountain News* that Cranston seems more clearly in agreement with the Sierra Club than any of the others. Hart would probably come in second, followed by Mondale and Glenn. Of course, Cranston is also from California, where about half of the club's membership lives.

On the "issue scale," all the candidates seem in agreement. The arms race and the economy are the top priority for all of them. A "second tier" of issues includes the environment, women's rights and civil rights. All of the candidates expect the environment to be an important issue, but to play second fiddle to the first two.

One question that was put to all of the speakers was, "Who would you appoint as interior secretary?" Cecil Andrus, speaking for Mondale, merely straightened his tie and smiled his winningest smile. Cranston said, "I don't want to say who, but it would be somebody like Mo Udall or Gaylord Nelson (former Senator from Wisconsin and current head of the Wilderness Society)." Hart said that it may be time to have an Indian leader as secretary of interior.

Q. Senator Hart, the real crisis for environmentalists would be if the Reaganites were re-elected. What we've got to worry about is, 'Who's going to be the candidate who can beat those people?' We have Senator Cranston who was described as 'looking presidential.' What are you gonna do?

A. (laughter) You'll be surprised how presidential I can look on my inauguration day. *(laughter and applause)* There comes a time when we must make the change of the generation of leadership in this country. We've done it in the past. I'm the first member of my generation to seek the presidency. We of my generation, elected in the 1970s, have come into politics because we have more clearly addressed the issues of our time.

While the candidates stumble over each other to establish an identity, to set themselves apart from the crowd, there is *really* only one issue — electability. In other words, "If you are the Democratic nominee, can you beat Reagan?" As Hart said, "Make no mistake about it. Whoever wins the nomination will have a difficult race." Reagan has been gaining in the opinion polls and all of the candidates will doubtless suffer from the lower campaign treasury and traditional chaos of the Democratic Party.

One Hart campaign worker who was lobbying Sierra Club leaders said, "I'm having a problem getting beyond the winnability issue to get them to look at his ideas."

Hart does not have any simple answers. He has presented a detailed outline of his positions on the major issues in his book, *A New Democracy*, and his campaign staff hands out reams of detailed position papers wherever anyone will take them.

As a campaigner, Hart is intense, direct and forthright. He looks his questioners right in the eye and gives every appearance of listening to the questions and asking for reaction.

I followed Hart around as he pumped flesh at the Sierra Club meeting most of the day on Sunday, July 3. I was amazed at how much talking a candidate for president has to do. To answer the questions and problems put before him requires patience, tact and a virtually encyclopedic knowledge of issues both



Hart addressing campaign volunteers

Neoliberals are generally lumped together under the heading, "conservative fiscal policy, liberal social policy." Sort of supply-side economics for bleeding hearts.

prominent and obscure. One person wants to talk about South Africa, the next about environmental medicine. By noon, the candidate was hoarse. He was obviously tired. He ate lunch — a turkey and Swiss sandwich on whole wheat — during a question and answer session with about 150 Sierra Clubbers. When he finished answering he would indicate the next questioner and say,

"Please, expound at length," then take a bite of his sandwich and a swig of his Coke.

He told me that when he first started out, the pace of his schedule meant that he had virtually nothing to eat for three days. Even when a meal was scheduled for the event he was attending, he rarely got to eat it. "I finally had to tell my

scheduler to give me 15 minutes on my own to eat, regardless of whether a meal was scheduled or not."

In his talk at the opening session, John Denver said, "I once thought about being a politician. But I couldn't do it. I'm really lucky I can sing." Yeah, well... there are two opinions about that last.

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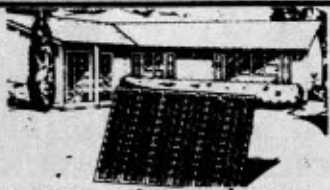
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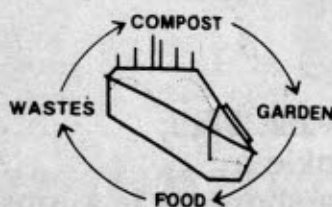
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CLASSIFIED ADS cost 20¢ per word,
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In 1982, tickets were issued in Colorado for the illegal killing of three mountain lions, four black bears, 86 elk, one bighorn sheep, 23 antelope, 188 deer and one moose. And agents probably catch only two percent of the violations.

Poaching...

(continued from page 7)

are six enforcement specialists who work solely in law enforcement.

Kay Bowles, game warden for the Dubois, Wyoming, area is responsible for 5,000 square miles, which includes two wilderness areas. In the seven years Bowles has been in his district he has come to know the people, the topography and the herds of wildlife quite well. With that knowledge, with tips from locals and with what Bowles calls a game warden's "sixth sense," he determines how to be at the right place at the right time to catch a poacher with the evidence. On call 24 hours a day and working 20-hour days during hunting season, Bowles uses that sixth sense to choose where and when to patrol — sometimes in the air and sometimes on horseback.

Bowles explained that a warden becomes familiar with his district's herd sizes, movements and ranges. From tips and his own suspicions, Bowles watches herds at times they are most likely to be poached. "Some cases may last as long as two or three years before an arrest can be made," he said. Other cases may be broken within a few weeks. "But if someone is suspected and stays in the area for a year or two (and engages in poaching), he'll be caught," Bowles said.

Although it is the state and federal officers who actually track down and arrest the poachers, it is a concerned individual who starts the majority of the investigation processes. Both state and federal officers say that most of their "poaching tips" come from people who call the agency about a suspicious hunting trip they heard about. The tipper's identity is always protected and the agencies feel very indebted to them for having courage to speak up.

Every state in the Rockies except Montana has some sort of a stop poaching program. The programs vary in name and length of existence, but all operate in basically the same way. Through statewide publicity campaigns, residents are informed of a toll-free number that can be called anonymously to report a suspected poacher or poaching incident. If the call results in a citation or an arrest, the caller is eligible for a monetary reward.

The programs have been successful in every state. For example, in Idaho two years ago, Baird said a hunter with a legal permit to take one elk got carried away and ended up killing seven. The incident was reported by a "tip" through the state program and four people were arrested as a result.

Baird said about one out of every four calls results in an arrest. Colorado's Croonquist said his state's program averaged about the same.

Bowles said the number of violators caught in Wyoming has increased since the program was instituted in Wyoming

five years ago. Utah's Johnson said his department assigns about 200 cases per year from the calls received. Out of 150 cases assigned last year, Johnson said 112 resulted in arrests.

As for Montana, McKiernan said the agency is trying to get a stop poaching program passed in the legislature. It failed this year, but will be reintroduced again later, he said.

But while state and federal officials continue to fight within their manpower and funding capabilities, poachers continue to take thousands of animals illegally each year, often taking the trophy-sized animals — the cream of the crop. And despite the fact that the majority of the public is behind the battle to curb poaching, even seasoned and respected legal hunters can be tempted to take a few fish over the limit or one extra big game animal. Said one such hunter after mule deer hunting in Colorado last year: "I got my buck on the first morning of the first day of the season. It was a long haul to get that deer to camp from where I shot him. During the next few days I saw several bucks — at least four of them larger than the one I took. One of them was really nice — with a large rack where the antlers were even growing down. If I hadn't already gotten my deer down to camp, I would have shot that buck and gone back up the mountain and buried the first one."

Poachers come from all different backgrounds, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent said. Sometimes the illegal business is even passed from father to son. What is it that prompts people to illegally kill wildlife? Grosz said: "Poaching is done for money, it's done for food, it's done for thrills, it's done for the macho image and it's done just for the hell of it."

Pot hunters..



(continued from page 16)

built their stone alcove homes directly on sandy foundations, rather than digging to bedrock as was done at larger sites. Now, 800 years later, when people dig around foundations for hidden pots, these once-solid structures are weakened and often collapse.

"I don't understand why somebody deliberately goes out of their way to destroy something that's 800 years old," Everhart said. Unfortunately, occasional tourists who make a lucky find of a shard or pot often think it no more serious to remove the object than it is to litter. Pothunting on public and Indian land is supposedly down because of the law, now enforced through aerial surveys.

"Far be it from me to say it's not being done," Wright said. "But I personally don't know of guys going out. They're

BULLETIN BOARD

AUDUBON CONVENTION CORRECTION

The June 10 issue of *HCN* mistakenly gave the wrong beginning date for the 1983 biennial National Audubon Convention. It will be held August 28 through Sept. 2 in Estes Park, Colo., focusing on the theme, "Think globally, act locally." The \$35 registration fee should be sent to National Audubon Society Convention, 4150 Darley Avenue, Suite 5, Boulder, Colo. 80303, 303/499-0219.

BORAX IN THE CABINETS

A U.S. Borax proposal to explore for minerals in the Hayes Ridge area of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness in Montana has been reviewed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. They have determined that all nine alternatives would be unacceptable or would jeopardize the existence of the grizzly bear population. They have proposed an alternative and U.S. Borax has also submitted an additional alternative. Both alternatives are now being evaluated in the preliminary environmental assessment which will soon be available for public review. For further information, contact Sandy Matheny, Kootenai National Forest, Box AS, Libby, Mont. 59923, 406/293-6211.

PUBLIC LAND SALE

The Bureau of Land Management will be auctioning off a total of 8,862 acres of Arizona public land in July. The 68 parcels are in LaPaz, Pima, Yuma, Yavapai, Maricopa and Pinal counties. The sales will be July 7 at Bouse; July 12, Ajo; July 14, Gila Bend; July 19, Wickenburg; July 21, Tonopah, and July 27 at Florence. BLM realty specialists will be on hand before the auctions to answer questions. Additional information is available from the Phoenix District office, 2929 West Clarendon Ave., Phoenix, Ariz. 85017, 602/241-2501.

CRITICAL MASS MATERIALS

If you missed the Critical Mass '83 conference on energy, jobs and security, you now have a chance to obtain the conference materials. The Critical Mass Energy Project is offering two packages of resource materials. Package #1, for \$15, includes the Critical Mass '83 Program Book; the Conference Workbook, a collection of the papers presented; and a Critical Mass '83 poster. Package #2, for \$20, includes all of the material in package #1, plus four books and six magazines. For more information, or to order, write to Conference Materials, Critical Mass Energy Project, Box 1538, Washington, D.C. 20013.

PROCESSING ORES AND SCRAP

The Colorado School of Mines' Second Mineral Conference will be held Sept. 22-30 in Golden, Colorado. This year's conference will focus on innovation in the mineral processing and recycling industries. Sessions will discuss research, inventions and successful examples of innovation. Registration fee is \$250. For more information, contact the Office of Special Programs and Continuing Education at the Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colo. 80401, 303/273-3321.

GENETIC ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

Genetic control of environmental pollutants is the topic of a conference to be held July 31-Aug. 3, 1983 at the University of Washington in Seattle. The purpose of the conference is to consider strategies for more effectively and safely managing wastes and toxic substances in the environment using biological, chemical and physical approaches. For more information, contact the Department of Environmental Health, University of Washington, SC-34, Seattle, Wash. 98195, 206/543-6991.

PASSIVE GATHERING

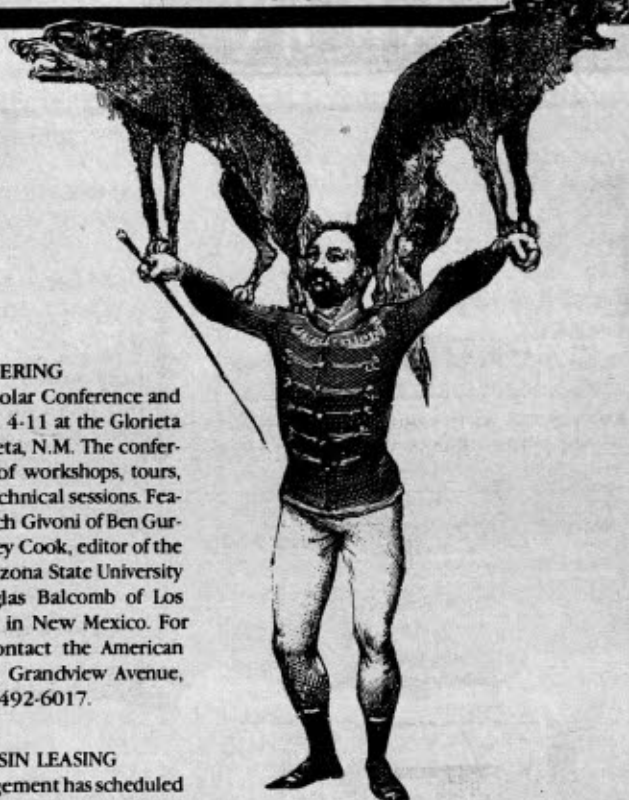
The 8th National Passive Solar Conference and Exhibition will be held Sept. 4-11 at the Glorieta Conference Center in Glorieta, N.M. The conference will feature a variety of workshops, tours, exhibits and three days of technical sessions. Featured speakers include Baruch Givoni of Ben Gurion University in Israel; Jeffrey Cook, editor of the *Passive Solar Journal* and Arizona State University professor; and Dr. J. Douglas Balcomb of Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. For registration information, contact the American Solar Energy Society, 1230 Grandview Avenue, Boulder, Colo. 80302, 303/492-6017.

POWDER RIVER BASIN LEASING

The Bureau of Land Management has scheduled public meetings to discuss the environmental impacts of proposed 1984 leasing in the Powder River Basin. The meetings will provide information about targeted coal tracts and gather public input. The Regional Coal Team has selected 22 coal tracts for analysis in the regional coal environmental impact statement — 11 in Montana and 11 in Wyoming. The meetings are scheduled for 6 p.m. on July 12 in Hardin at the County Courthouse and July 13 at the Holiday Inn in Sheridan. For more information, contact Charles Wilkie, Bureau of Land Management, 951 Rancho Road, Casper, Wyo. 82601, 307/261-5598.

REVISED GRAZING REGULATIONS

The Bureau of Land Management has released proposals for revised grazing regulations. The proposed revisions shorten and simplify the current regulations, eliminate duplications in the rules and are intended to provide incentives for range and habitat improvements. Copies of the proposals are available from BLM district offices. Written comments will be accepted until July 12 and can be sent to the Director (220), Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C. 20240.



BOOKS

Eyeball-to-eyeball with insects

The Audubon Society Book of Insects

Les Line, and Lorus and Margery Milne.
New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1983.
264 pages. \$50.00, hardcover.

Review by Peter Wild

Many of us who read seriously, even lovingly, look on coffee table books as belonging in the Manhattan apartments of people who brag that they're descended from the Romanovs. The oversized tomes have become clichés, the inflatable Campbell Soup cans of yesteryear.

And there's good reason for our literary haughtiness. While waiting for the dentist to beckon, or for the girlfriend to finish frizzing her hair, I'd prefer something more than bubble gum for the eyes — something more engaging, a paperback Pascal or a Herodotus. Then, too, being of the lower-class sort, I'm jealous of the person who can afford to

peel off 40 or 50 bills just to have an object of lavish mindlessness gathering dust in the living room.

Still, exceptions do occur, and if *The Audubon Society Book of Insects* fit entirely into the above category, we wouldn't be recommending it here, other than to aspiring movie directors and weight lifters.

As to the text, we get pretty much what we'd expect, a book about "the wonderful world of insects," as the preface says, with "Gee-Wow" facts shaking off at every turn of the page thereafter.

Insects live atop Mt. Everest, apparently blown there on gales from lower elevations; they live under the ocean, hiding in the air pockets between the hair of seals. There are several million species of the eccentric little critters — most of them not yet described by entomologists — so if you want to leave your name on the scientific map, here's your chance. Insects, variously, eat one

another, have false eyes, and can fly thousands of miles. The largest are bigger than shoes and would be happy to attack your dog or chase your cat.

The book divides the insect kingdom rather unscientifically into such categories as "Bombardiers and Borers," "Master Mimics" and "Singing Insects." Taxonomists will tear their hair. And the writers, who know better and can write better, wriggle within the strictures of coffee-table prose like bugs caught in the deadly clutches of a praying mantis.

And now for the good part. The photographs. Dozens and dozens of eyeball-to-eyeball views of leaf-cutter ants, aphids, bees, tarantulas, and damselflies — exquisitely reproduced on fine papers and all of them in full color, with several in two-page spreads. Truly a super-real feast for the eyes, a format entirely justified by the diminutive nature of the subjects. Even at 50 bucks a throw, the book is a steal.

scared. They don't want to go to jail. And most of them don't need to dig. They go buy Indian ruins."

Wright, who says he's hunted pots for 15 years, said he doesn't believe the law is right, but he obeys it. "I don't hide the fact the I will still dig, but I don't dig illegally."

Like a southwestern Indiana Jones, Wright's conversation carries him from the reverie of digging mysterious and unknown prehistoric sites to indignation at being dictated to by the federal government about something he regards as personal.

He argues that thousands of dollars are spent to catch and prosecute pothunters while excavations go wanting and companies like Peabody Coal are permitted to destroy ruins digging for coal on Arizona's Black Mesa.

"They go in there and totally demolish the whole site with one scoop of one bucket from that big coal machine," Wright said. "Now if they're going to do that, what the hell difference does it make how I dig? If I want to go in there with a goldang bulldozer, what difference does it make?"

Black Mesa sites are, in fact, destroyed

by the mining operation, said Fred Fest, Peabody Coal manager of compliance engineering. But since 1967, when Peabody began its operation there, it has complied with archaeological clearance regulations of the Office of Surface Mining, he said.

"If a previously unrecorded site is discovered during the mining process, we have to stop our operation and call each of the regulatory offices and our archaeologist," Fest said. "They come out and take a look at the site to determine whether or not it is significant. If it is, then the archaeologists do the work on it."

But Black Mesa is not where the choice pots sought by pothunters are found anyway, according to George Gumerman, director of the Center for Archaeological Investigation at Southern Illinois University and an authority on southwestern archaeology.

Gumerman, who has excavated Black Mesa for Peabody for 15 years, said that while occupation of the area was fairly intensive from 400 B.C. to 1200 A.D., the early Basketmaker II people who dominated the area had not invented ceramics.

And although pots and potshards are found, he said that pothunters are not as likely to dig where the diggings are not good, such as the minesites on northern Black Mesa.

"South of Hopi is where the pots are," he said. "It's gotten horrible around the Hopi villages." Today, Hopi tribal rangers carry infrared spotting scopes and shotguns to catch nocturnal pothunters who have turned nearby ruins into war zones.

But the real difference between pothunting and archaeology, explains Richard Ambler, is exploitation.

"More people care about these things as art objects rather than caring about their context and what they can tell us about the people," he said. "There are plenty of pothunters out there who know what they're doing, and know that they sometimes do get caught. But it's not deterring the hard core. All they're doing is carrying guns now."

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George Hardeen is a reporter for the *Navajo-Hopi Observer* in Page, Arizona. The article was paid for by the HCN Research Fund.

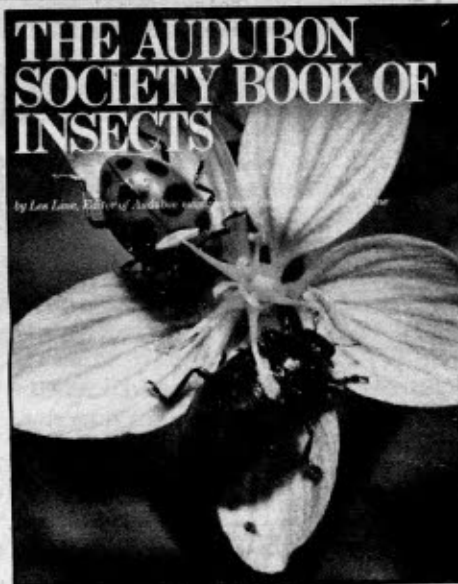


Photo by Mike McClure

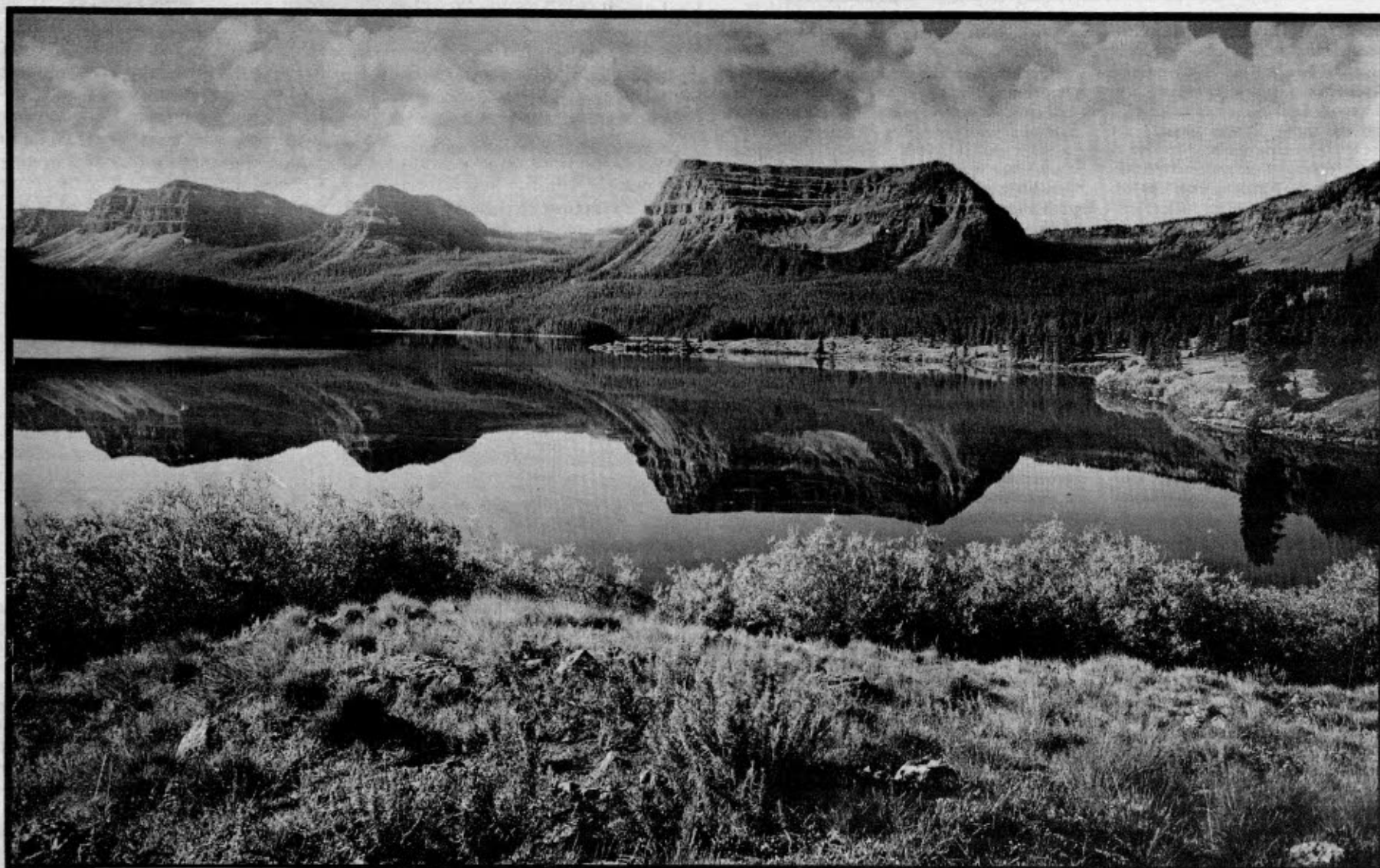
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14-High Country News — July 8, 1983

OPINION



Colorado Association

Trappers Lake, Flattops Wilderness, Colorado

Colorado's Trappers Lake

Cradle of the wilderness system?

by Peter Wild

Feel pent up in a "heat-cursed" city? Do you yearn for "the music of water splashing through a rocky stream bed mingled with the chuckle of a diminutive waterfall"? You're in luck. Now, for

GUEST EDITORIAL

a fee of between \$10 and \$25 per year, "every citizen of the country is given the opportunity to own a summer home built on forest land." Interested? Just contact your local national forest ranger, a "generally well-known and liked" fellow.

Conservationists can relax. This isn't yet another scheme of the Reagan administration to "maximize" the use of the national forests by calling upon every rocky hillside, every willow thicket and squirrel to make its contribution to the government's bottomless coffers. Rather, it was the unblushing come-on of a Forest Service propagandist celebrating Public Law 63-293 of 1915. Under its provisions, common folk like you and me could lease a few acres from Uncle Sam, build a vacation home and sit back to enjoy "reflected light, flashing from snow-capped peaks."

In its day, the plan seemed a grand step for democracy on the nation's forest lands, but in the 68 years since its passage, many a "generally well-known and liked" ranger has torn his hair in distraction over the biting dogs, sewage overflows, traffic jams and family shootouts he's had to contend with owing to the presence of summer homes on his district. No wonder that in recent years Forest Service officialdom has smilingly tried to nudge these formerly blessed interlopers off the public's lands and back to their "heat-cursed" cities.

Curiously enough, this plunges us immediately into a quite different but equally knotty tussle. Who was the "father" of America's wilderness system? The two seemingly opposed

events — the opening of forest lands to officially encouraged squatters and the founding of our chain of wilderness preserves — are bedfellows.

"Forestry is tree farming," pontificated Gifford Pinchot, who in 1905, with bumptious help from President Theodore Roosevelt, established the U.S. Forest Service. Its job: to grow and cut trees. About as simple as that. But by World War I, and especially in the years immediately following, the rapidly industrializing society was foisting unexpected pressures on the national forests. Not least among the causes were the expanding population, growth in leisure time and Henry Ford's sputtering but threatening-to-become-ubiquitous Model T. In sum, people wanted to travel, and they now had the means to do it. The somewhat bewildered ranger stepping forth to cruise timber found them camping out in increasing numbers on his tree farm. That brought the timber-oriented agency on a collision course with recreation. "Well, what the heck," reasoned the Forest Service. "Give them a few roads and campgrounds" — and with mounting enthusiasm for the agency's new mission of public service — "why not leases for summer homes to boot?"

That decision brought a young man striding in backpack to the shores of Trappers Lake in Colorado's White River National Forest, where he rested his bones one evening in Scott Teague's ramshackle fishing camp. In 1919, armed with a degree in landscape architecture from Iowa State College at Ames, the recently discharged first lieutenant managed to talk his way into the Forest Service as its first "Recreational Engineer." "Beauty engineer," winked the calloused old hands, but he seemed harmless enough, "a good fellow" judged an in-house publication for Forest Service employees. His mission: stomp around the lake a bit, take out his pencil and map and draw in sites for a few hundred summer homes. Then, sur-

vey a road around the pristine body of water.

He was still young, only 27, feisty, and open to new ideas. One night around the campfire, two of Teague's guests, Paul J. Rainey and William McFadden, began filling his head with them. One can imagine the conversation.

Rainey and McFadden: "What do you want to hack out hundreds of cabin sites and a road for?"

Recreational Engineer: "Dunno. That's what they told me to do."

R & M: "Son, that'll bring the unwashed herd in droves. They'll ruin this isolated place with their screaming kids, marshmallow wrappers, and ukulele strummin'. You want that?"

The young man leaps defiantly to his feet. "By gumbo, no!"

The young whippersnapper runs back over the Rocky Mountains to his office in Denver and draws up the plans as directed, but also inserts, entirely gratis, a strong opinion opposing "improvement" to the area.

His boss sees his reasoning about the dangers in too much of a good thing, scraps the road and starts withdrawing the permits for vacation homes. An unprecedented step in Forest Service history, this championing of beauty over use. And there we have, at Trappers Lake on the West Slope of the Colorado Rockies, the first official act of wilderness preservation.

This is heresy among some historians. We all know, or at least thought we knew, that Aldo Leopold, a forest ranger in New Mexico, was the motivating force behind setting aside the Gila, the world's first wilderness preserve, in 1924. Most of the books on conservation history cite the Gila as the beginning milestone, and many of them skim over, or fail to mention, upstart Arthur Carhart and his successful proposal for Trappers Lake. Added to that, we all recognize Leopold's lucid mind, professional generosity and activities in The Wilderness Society. The eloquence of his classic statement on land care in A

Sand County Almanac charms us. Out of sentiment and habitual thinking, we hesitate to begrudge Aldo Leopold the honor of "father" of the wilderness system.

Human nature being what it is, we cling to the idea of "firsts." It makes us comfortable in a mutable world to have solid reference points. We're glad to declare, without much chance of being wrong, that Sir David Brewster invented the kaleidoscope in 1816.

But things aren't always that simple. Did Columbus really discover America? Evanescent Vikings scouted our shores hundreds of years before him. Did Leibniz or Newton create that bane of math students, calculus? Often in this business of "firsts" we plunge into murky waters. We know, for instance, that Alfred Russell Wallace and Charles Darwin hit upon the theory of evolution about the same time. The idea was "in the air," as they say. It took someone with vision to snatch it and tie it down. So the credit goes to Wallace and Darwin, though the popular mind conveniently anchors the credit to Darwin.

A similar process was at work in the unfolding of the wilderness idea. A host of thinkers in the nineteenth century — from George Catlin and Henry David Thoreau right on down to Frederick Law Olmsted and John Muir — advocated preserving wild nature. But we're looking for something concrete, the first solid link in the chain of events that leads directly to congressional creation of the Wilderness System in 1964.

In an article appearing in *The Living Wilderness* of December, 1980, Roderick Nash staunchly defends the Gila and Aldo Leopold on this score. In contrast, Donald Baldwin's book, *The Quiet Revolution*, expends 295 pages documenting his decision to lay the laurel at the feet of Trappers Lake and Arthur Carhart. Despite Nash's well-deserved reputation as an historian, Baldwin may be right.

Soon after the discussion with his Denver supervisor over the future of

Trappers Lake, Carhart drew up a broad plan for the area, thus formulating in 1919, according to Baldwin, "the first written blueprint which spelled out the wilderness concept as it is understood today." Added to that, the peripatetic "beauty engineer" subsequently traveled to Minnesota. Inspired by his canoeing through the lake-and-forest country, Carhart wrote a second document recommending "immediate action toward general preservation of good timber stands" so that "aesthetic qualities shall, where of high merit, take precedence over . . . commercialization" on the Superior National Forest. With Carhart's continuing activities, and with support from the Izaak Walton League, Zane Grey and Herbert Hoover, the region eventually won protection as the renowned Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Thus, acting in 1919 and again in 1922, Carhart had taken the first two steps for wilderness. Chronologically, Leopold took the third. As Baldwin puts

it, the outline for Trappers Lake set the "guiding principles." Then "Carhart's plan for the Superior National Forest was approved in 1922, two years before the one proposed by Aldo Leopold for the Gila National Forest, New Mexico, which was not formally approved until June 3, 1924."

Carhart, we might note, followed up his early environmental interests by becoming an outdoor writer of note, by speaking out in the movement that culminated in passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964, and by founding the outstanding Conservation Library of the Denver Public Library.

One more nail needs to be driven in the Carhart-Leopold controversy. Back in 1919, down in New Mexico, ranger Aldo Leopold caught wind of his colleague's first radical suggestions for Trappers Lake. Carhart's preservation stance so appealed to Leopold that he traveled to Denver to see what was boiling in the beauty engineer's pot. Nash pooh-poohs the meeting: "Leopold was five years older than Carhart, was a grad-

uate of the prestigious Yale School of Forestry and was far senior to the recreational engineer in terms of Forest Service status. He was well on his way toward a philosophy of the value of wilderness, and it is logical to presume that he impressed his younger colleague rather than vice versa."

Nash's first sentence is accurate, but his conclusion does not necessarily follow from his premise. In fact, after the Denver discussion, it was Leopold who was so intrigued by the younger man that he asked Carhart to put down his ideas for him in writing. The resulting four-page "Memorandum for Mr. Leopold, District 3" questions the proliferation of "manmade improvements" at Trappers Lake in particular and on forest lands in general. It goes on to state prophetically: "Time will come when these scenic spots, where nature has been allowed to remain unmarred, will be some of the most highly prized scenic features of the country . . ." As the document unfolds, it sounds very much as if the younger Carhart were instruct-

ing Mr. Leopold, not vice versa.

In any case, the Carhart-Leopold dispute is a controversy born of historians. In their day, the two foresters did not perceive themselves as combatants for first place. In fact, the men's lives are striking in their similarities. Both were from Iowa; both shared broad wilderness concepts; both worked for the Forest Service, then quit in frustration to become writers on conservation issues. Both played significant roles in gaining, nearly twenty years ago, congressional recognition of the areas protected for decades as wilderness by the Forest Service.

And both, we might imagine, now stand in that Great Wilderness in the Sky, their arms around each other, chuckling down on the Carhart-Leopold debate.

Peter Wild is a contributing editor to *High Country News* and a professor of English at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

LETTERS

LOWRY ERRORS

Dear HCN,

"Denver sues over Lowry Landfill" (HCN, 6/24/83) contained several errors of fact and an assumption which we believe you should know about.

First, the plume of liquid wastes has not "leaked" beyond the boundaries of Section 6 which contains the active landfill.

Secondly, Colorado Disposal Company, a subsidiary of Waste Management Corp. of Chicago took over operation of the Denver landfill in 1980, and it was Chemical Waste Management, another subsidiary of Waste Management Corp. who built the Denver-Arapahoe Chemical Waste Treatment Facility (the hazardous waste site on Section 31 and 32) some 2.5 miles from Section 6 on the former Lowry Bombing Range Property in 1980.

Thirdly, it was 100 million gallons of waste estimated to have been disposed of at Section 6 between 1967 and 1980.

Now, it was apparently assumed by someone that the cleanup of Section 6 falls under Superfund laws. This has not been determined and, as a matter of fact, few believe the site can meet the EPA test for Superfund monies since there is a readily identified owner-operator, the city and county of Denver, and the fact that the site is still operating as a sanitary landfill facility.

We hope this will help clarify, somewhat, the plethora of confusion and sloppy reporting that has plagued this issue for the past three years.

Olie Webb
Director of Environmental Affairs
Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry
Denver, Colorado

CLEARLY DANGEROUS

Dear HCN,

I never before have seen an issue of your newspaper which made me feel so strongly that every member of Congress should receive a copy — to try to see that drilling and thermal leases are not activated — nor even allowed to exist — outside of Yellowstone Park. Angus

EUPHEMISILE



Thuermer Jr.'s article makes it seem so clearly dangerous.

Does *High Country News* or the Greater Yellowstone Coalition have plans to distribute this copy to members of Congress? If not, can it be done? I am sure many people would join in funding such an effort.

Mary Vant Hull
Bozeman, Mont.

Editor's Note: As it happens, the National Parks and Conservation Association, which has been lobbying on the amendment to the Geothermal Steam Act, has requested 530 copies for distribution to members of Congress and their staffs. We're flattered — and glad you agree with their judgment.

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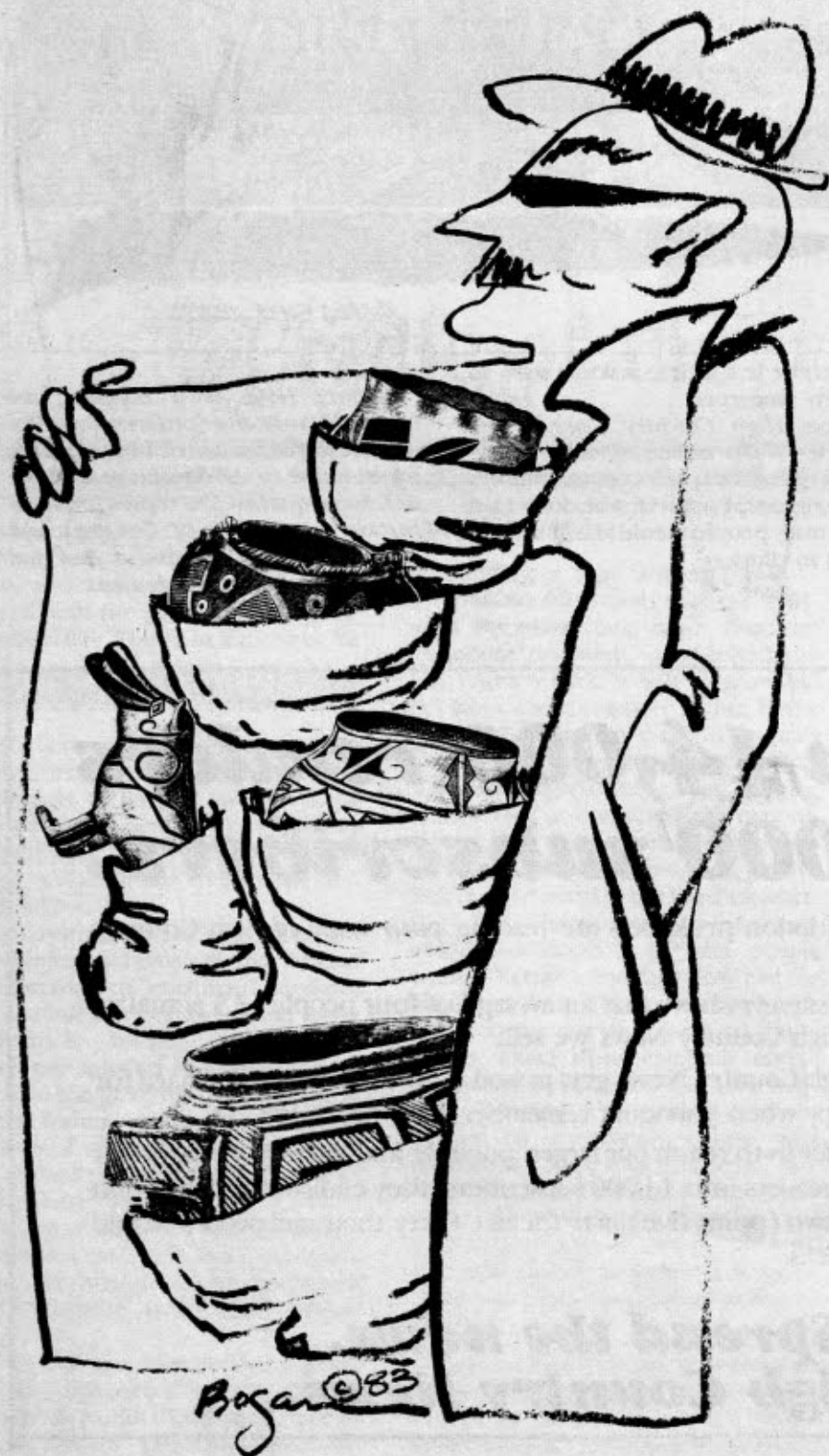
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Pothunting for profit — and the loss of history

by George Hardeen



"Pothunters are the greatest cause of destruction of the archaeological sites in the West today."

— Dr. J. Richard Ambler, Northern Arizona University

As the spring winds blow over the Rainbow Plateau in northern Arizona, thousands of small, painted pieces of pottery are left uncovered. These potsherds may sit for a while, perhaps only to be covered by another wind. But just as likely, someone will come by to pick up a few of them.

Technically, this innocent gesture is a felony. Indian artifacts such as these are protected under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, a revised version of the 1906 Antiquities Act. But each year countless pieces of this thousand-year-old Anasazi pottery, found abundantly in hidden ruins and burials throughout the canyon country of the Southwest, become souvenirs which are carried home from their desert resting places.

Certainly they are a kind of collector's item and make interesting mementos of one's vacation. But on the other end of this finders-keepers gathering scale is what is perceived as a harmful extreme, namely the purposeful hunting of ancient burial sites for the intentional removal of partial pots.

Some of those excavating these sites are lettered archaeologists who measure new knowledge in each centimeter they dig. They continually want to know more about how the Anasazis — a Navajo word meaning the "ancient ones" — lived 700 to 1,000 years ago. The other searchers are professional pothunters — outlaws who measure their success in dollars.

The law clearly spells out who is entitled to dig Indian artifacts and who is not, and what the consequences are if these rules are broken. If high fines and uncomfortable jail terms don't slow down the pothunters who get caught, their attorney fees will, as two Arizona men learned last year. Yet an angry disagreement with the law persists, and the proof is the continual discovery of recently plundered archaeological sites throughout the Southwest.

Unfortunately, there is no open debate of this public issue as might be expected with other environmental concerns. But emotions run high.

Pothunters who continue to make their livings illegally on public and Indian lands merely work more secretly, more hastily and perhaps more destructively in order to sell their precious discoveries to well-to-do collectors and dealers. Other pothunters who extract license-to-dig out of what they call a restrictive law, work within it by contracting their services for a share of the profit to individuals desiring to excavate Indian burials on their private property.

The law is bad, pothunters contend, because each year hundreds of sites are uncovered naturally by the winds which helped carve this region. It is common to find inch-sized pieces exposed on the surface. It is less common, but not unheard of, to find human ribs poking out of the ground. Burials that were originally several feet deep may now be only a few inches below the surface. Or they may be deeper. But in either case the same wind that moves the sand around grinds away at exposed shards, pothunters claim. And what the wind misses, livestock crunch beneath their hooves. Since universally reduced budgets and manpower shortages prevent these many minor sites from ever being excavated, pothunters argue, why not allow diggers to try their luck?

Because in the case of pothunting for profit, archaeologists answer, the most important aspect of an excavation — knowledge — is lost. Countering this, some pothunters say they are willing to dig a site under the supervision of an archaeologist if they are promised a portion of the find. But here is the impasse: archaeologists are offended by the venality of pothunters who seek prehistoric artifacts for bucks, while pothunters are frustrated by the pedantry of experts with inflexible scientific views.

"Every time you excavate an archaeological site, it's destroyed," said Ron Everhart, a trained archaeologist and National Park Service public information officer for the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

"Pothunters are the greatest cause of destruction of archaeological sites in the West today," said Dr. J. Richard Ambler, an archaeologist for Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

"My argument," said Mike Wright of Page, a pothunter who contracts but performs no illegal digs, "is that there are people like me who spend thousands of dollars going out and finding these sites because it's just something we're going to do. Why not let these sites be dug at no expense to taxpayers so they don't lose all of this knowledge?"

What Wright refers to are the tens of thousands of small, unnamed ruins dotting the slickrock country of Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. It is believed that these were suddenly vacated within a short span of years around 1150 A.D. after a prolonged drought prevented the Anasazi (now a general term referring to the Indians of the period) from raising sufficient crops of corn, beans and melons. A fuller understanding of what occurred is found in the legends of the Hopi, the supposed descendants of the Anasazi, who continue to farm corn out of the sand and live atop high cliffs in pueblo dwellings. Tree-ring dating, incidentally, indicates that the Hopi village of Oraibi on First Mesa was settled in 1150.

When these prehistoric sites were abandoned, their inhabitants often left food stored in small pueblo granaries. Corn cobs still litter some sites today. Last year, after two teenagers discovered a prehistoric ceramic ladle and bowl on Lake Powell, the unwashed bowl was found to have leftover food in it. A test known as a pollen study will reveal what plants were in the bowl so scientists can know what the people were eating.

"If that bowl had been found by a pothunter, he'd have washed it out to make it prettier to get a higher price," Everhart said. "You learn so much more like this than if you just ripped it out of the ground."

It was not the artifacts alone, nor their contents, that interested Everhart when he investigated the find. It was the location of the site, too, with its close proximity to the former Glen Canyon. The site yielded several more pots and other artifacts. The details of where they were found within the site, whether they were upside down or not, were scrupulously recorded.

"In any archaeological specimen, the context of where it is in time and space is equally important as the article itself," Everhart said. "This knowledge is what you lose when a pothunter removes an artifact because he doesn't have those skills of documentation."

When desert archaeologists level Indian dwelling sites, Everhart explained, work proceeds 10 centimeters at a time using a dental pick and brushes. Pothunters have been known to use backhoes, he said.

But Wright says that when he digs for pottery he searches for burials rather than dwellings, and heavy equipment is unnecessary. "In this part of the country the burials are not in the rooms," he said. "We don't dig out kivas, so we don't even touch the rooms. We go in and determine to the best of our knowledge where the burials are, and that's what we dig up, and normally they're damn shallow. We never dig a ruin at all. No, they're damn fools when they make statements like that."

Nonetheless, it is generally acknowledged that cliff dwellings and ruins on public lands are being destroyed. When the early Indians moved west from Kayenta, they

(continued on page 12)